



THE TIMES Tomorrow

English brutality, which led to a decline in the Irish population, has constantly fed the flames of Irish hatred. That, at least, was what Hitler's generals were told in the summer of 1940 as they made plans to invade Ireland, the back door of Britain's defences. On the Spectrum page tomorrow, Robert Fisk describes how the Nazis planned "Operation Green".

The Wednesday Page meets Lady Jean Crossman, the master of foxhounds who changed into a politician when she discovered her local Tory candidate had a wife who was involved with the League Against Cruel Sports.

Two Special Reports look at Hongkong and the world tea industry.

Unions' pay revolt toned down

Militant trade union leaders agreed on a formula of loyalty to the Shadow Cabinet as election fever affected the Scottish TUC in Rothsay.

Faced with mounting political pressure, the miners and civil servants toned down a left-wing motion hostile to the prospect of an incomes policy under the TUC-Labour Party economic plan. Page 2

House prices rise by 5%

House prices throughout the country have increased by as much as 5 per cent, representing the largest surge in demand since 1980, according to the latest residential survey. Page 3

'Gandhi' refusal

Sir Richard Attenborough said that he will not attend performances of his film *Gandhi* in South Africa unless the Pretoria Government opens every performance to all races throughout the film's entire run and that no cinema has to apply for a permit. Page 6

Oil 'peace'

Two leading oil ministers, Shakhil Yamani of Saudi Arabia and Dr. Othman of the United Arab Emirates, said that the accord on oil pricing had been a success and the danger of a price war was now over. Page 15

Wife goes home

Mrs Lorraine Gilmore, the wife of an alleged IRA "supergrass", has returned home to London after eight months in police protective custody. Her husband is still in hiding. Page 2

Murder appeal

Paul Vickers, aged 48, the surgeon convicted at Teesside Crown Court in November, 1981, of the murder of his wife, is seeking leave to appeal against his conviction. Page 3

Seveso trial off

The trial of five officials charged with responsibility for the Seveso dioxin pollution disaster opened in Italy and was adjourned. The accused were absent. Page 6

Leaflet request

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is to ask the Government for supplies of its leaflets on the cruise and Trident missiles and the nuclear debate, to send out with CND's own leaflets. Page 4

Net profit

Tennis players are benefiting financially from tournaments in which they have not competed. Rex Bellamy discusses the dubious distribution of prize money. Page 25

Squash changes

Revolutionary changes are planned in the sport of squash, with the aim of giving it greater spectator appeal. Among the innovations is a new scoring system. Page 24

Leader page 13

Letters: On films, from Mr I Quinn and Mr M Hassan; probation, from Lord Wells-Powell and others; arms, from Dr H Macdonald.

Leading articles: European and Arab cultures; Lead in petrol. Features, pages 8, 11, 12

A call to speed the ban on petrol lead: Arms-twisting at the Scottish TUC: The controversial architect of the Tate extension.

Fashion for a rainy day, by Suzi Menkes. Spectrum: Getting the Irish out of neutral.

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'Troops were desperately pulling corpses from the rubble'

Blast kills 33 at US Embassy in Beirut

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

America's political honeymoon in the Lebanon came to a savage and terrifying end yesterday when a massive bomb - either hidden in a police vehicle and detonated by remote control or carried by a suicide bomber in his own car - blasted down part of the United States Embassy in Beirut, slaughtering at least 33 people and wounding another 105. They included senior Embassy staff, American Marine guards and Lebanese civilians who were queuing at the ground-floor visa section when the explosion tore them to pieces.

The bomb was so powerful that the seven-storey central section of the Embassy simply collapsed in a cloud of dust and flames, crushing to death everyone inside. A Lebanese military armoured vehicle was blown off the coastal boulevard that runs past the building and hurled into the Mediterranean while the corpses of Embassy staff were tossed 50 feet through the air onto a carpet of rubble and glass outside.

The explosion also blasted the self-confidence - many would say complacency - of the American-organised multinational force in Beirut and destroyed the sense of security that the American presence in Lebanon had given to tens of thousands of Lebanese.

Coming only days after the collapse of the Reagan initiative and at a time when the United States was still vainly trying to secure the withdrawal of Israeli and Syrian troops from the country, the bomb was clearly intended to strike at the very heart of President Reagan's Middle East policy.

Only 10 minutes after the bomb went off an organisation calling itself "Al Jihad Al Islami" - "Islamic Holy War" - claimed responsibility for the carnage. An anonymous caller, speaking slowly and in a Lebanese accent, telephoned the Beirut newspaper *Al-Naba* and the *Agence France Presse* news agency to say that the attack was "part of the Iranian revolution's campaign against the imperialists". In fact "Al Jihad Al Islami" is a faction of the Shia Muslim militia group Amal whose more extreme members operate from a base in the Bekaa Valley in Syrian-occupied Lebanon. They also have close connections with several hundred Iranian Revolutionary Guards based in the eastern city of Basleib. Lebanese Government officials, however, archly pointed out that Israel as well as Syria had been arming Lebanese Shia militias in recent months and that both nations stood to gain

President Reagan condemned the bombing as a cowardly act but it would not deter US peace efforts. The American ambassador, trapped in the rubble, escaped. Reports and more photographs, page 7.



Rescue workers in action: Some blackened corpses had been stripped half-naked by the explosion.

Early poll call 'would put party first'

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

If the Prime Minister decides in favour of an early general election, as many of her colleagues in government believe she should, most voters will consider that her decision has been taken for reasons of political advantage rather than national interest.

An opinion poll taken for Independent Television News on Saturday invited respondents to say whether national interest or the pursuit of political advantage would be in the Government's mind. Nearly two thirds believed it would be political advantage.

Even among Conservative supporters 59 per cent preferred political advantage to national interest as the likelier motive. Among the Government's opponents the response was even less generous, with 74 per cent of Labour and 73 per cent of Alliance supporters ready to attribute an early election date to political advantage.

The poll of a representative sample of 1,625 electors throughout Britain was conducted for ITN by Opinion Research Centre. It goes to the heart of Mrs Thatcher's dilemma, if she is seriously considering a June election, because it gives colour to the most persistent fear of her advisers - that voters will accuse her of opportunism.

It may be that fear which, to another question, led 62 per cent of Conservative supporters to say that the Government should "carry on" rather than have an early election, which only 28 per cent of Conservatives wanted. But among Labour supporters 76 per cent, and among Alliance supporters 59 per cent, wanted an election soon.

As to voting intention, the ITN poll, in an annual sequence of questions, found that only 55 per cent of voters had decided which party to support. Among these the Conservatives again had a marked lead of 12 points. The figures were: Conservative 43 per cent, Labour 34 per cent, Alliance 12 per cent.

At Westminster the very low figure for Alliance support was treated with some scepticism. A more orthodox poll conducted by MORI for the *Standard* and published yesterday recorded support at Conservative 43 per cent, Labour 34 per cent, Alliance 22 per cent. MORI questioned 1,825 electors on April 7 to 12.

All new cars to take lead-free petrol within seven years

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

All new cars will have to run on lead-free petrol by 1990, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday. He was responding to a warning from the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution that the amount of lead in the blood of the "general population" was too close to a potentially dangerous level.

Mr King's statement went further than any previous Government commitment. He said he would like new cars to be able to run on lead-free petrol before 1990, but there were two hurdles to cross before a date could be announced. One was to persuade the rest of the EEC to change Community rules to allow all member states to change to lead-free petrol, and the other was to agree with car manufacturers a date from which they could fit new models with appropriate engines.

At present petrol in the EEC must contain at least 0.15 grammes of lead per litre, the level to which British petrol will fall early in 1986. The present British level is 0.4 grammes per litre.

Existing car engines can meet the 1986 low-lead requirement but cannot run without lead-based anti-knock compounds. "I think this Royal Commission report has been valuable in cutting through a lot of the somewhat exaggerated claims of the various lobbyists on the various sides", Mr King said later.



Top-level talks bring peace hope for BL

By Barry Clement

Talks between BL and the leaders of the two main unions involved in the three-week strike at the Cowley plant were adjourned last night until Wednesday.

Mr Harold Musgrove, chairman of the Austin Rover group, said Mr Terence Duffy, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and Mr Mostyn Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, would carry out intensive negotiations today with shop stewards and district leaders.

He said: "I sincerely hope we do not have to dismiss anyone. At this level of talks we should have a successful conclusion."

A possible restructuring of bonus payments rather than a transference attempt to buy off the workers.

The peace initiative was launched on Sunday by Mr Duffy, who insisted that there could be a deal over the "washing up" period at the end of shifts, the issue at the centre of the stoppage. A settlement could involve "compensatory payments" for loss of the time.

The talks were arranged after a midnight telephone conversation between Mr Duffy, who was at his union's annual conference in Eastbourne, and Mr Evans in Scotland.

But any compromise will have to be put before local union leaders at Cowley and possibly before a mass meeting at the plant today.

The strikers, under the guidance of Mr David Buckle, local official of the transport union, have consistently refused to climb down over the washing-up issue.

A BL worker at Longbridge killed himself after being laid off on his birthday because of the Cowley dispute.

Walesa held on road to Warsaw

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Lech Walesa, the former Solidarity chairman, was held by police yesterday while on his way to Warsaw to pay tribute to the Jewish resistance fighters who died 40 years ago in the ghetto uprising against the Germans.

The police move - they stopped Mr Walesa near Olsztyn on the road from Gdansk to Warsaw - was unexplained but seemed designed to prevent Mr Walesa taking part in any pro-Solidarity demonstrations in the capital.

The incident was the latest in a series of clashes between Solidarity sympathizers and the authorities that have characterized the ghetto uprising anniversary.

The government had hoped to use the extensive ceremonies and celebrations as a way of building up international respectability and atoning for the antisemitic campaigns waged in Poland 15 years ago.

Instead there has been a succession of disputes involving the underground and Jewish resentment at the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization in wreath-laying ceremonies.

Mr Walesa, who openly admitted last week that he had met the illegal Solidarity underground, had hoped to take part in an unofficial ceremony marking the anniversary.

About 200 Jews and Solidarity supporters - including Dr Bronislaw Geremek, a former adviser to Mr Walesa - gathered outside the gates of the Jewish cemetery.

Mr Walesa was travelling yesterday with his friend Father Henryk Jankowski, the Gdansk shipyard priest, and an actor, Jozef Duryasz. The two were subsequently released and Father Jankowski said he had been assured that Mr Walesa would be released soon.

Cleric jumps bail in South Africa and flees to UK

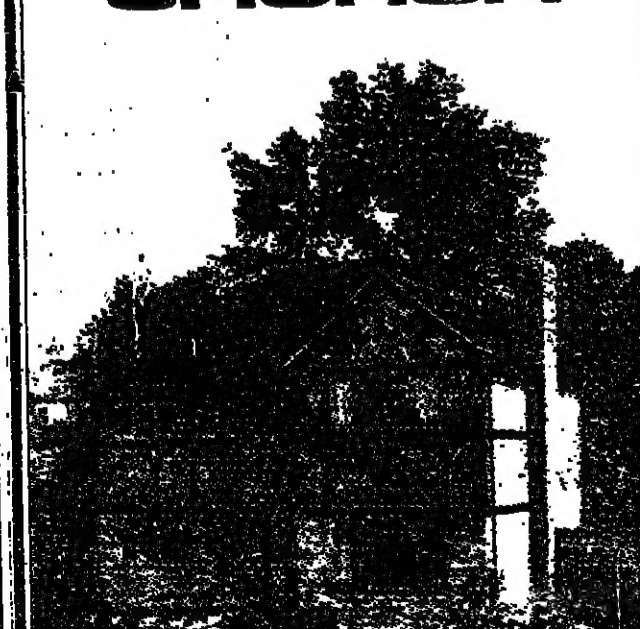
By Clifford Longley

The Rev Cedric Mayson, on trial under the Treason Act in South Africa, has jumped bail and fled to Britain where he is being sheltered by churchmen.

He arrived late on Sunday night, having evaded South African security men and crossed the Lesotho border. His trial resumed in Pretoria yesterday but was adjourned indefinitely after the judge said he had received a letter from Mr Mayson announcing that he was not intending to surrender to his bail of 1,000 rand (£600).

Captain Paul Grestreicher, international secretary of the British Council of Churches, said Mr Mayson, a Methodist minister, was resting at an undisclosed address, and would explain how he escaped today.

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'Striking link' between suicides and booklet

By Frances Gibb

Legal Affairs Correspondent

At least 15 people killed themselves after buying the Voluntary Euthanasia Society's suicide booklet, published in June 1981, the High Court in London was told yesterday.

And since the society asked people to destroy or return the booklet, a *Guide to Self-Deliverance*, there might be other cases not revealed, Mr Simon D. Brown, for the Attorney General, said.

A further 19 suicides were known to have been in contact with the society, he added.

The "striking link" between the booklet and the deaths was noted by police throughout Britain, Mr Brown said as he opened civil proceedings

against five of the Society's executive committee members.

The Society, formerly known as EKIT, has refused to withdraw the booklet, which has sold more than 8,000 copies.

Sir Michael Havers QC, the Attorney General, is seeking a declaration from Mr Justice Woolf that publication and distribution of the booklet is an offence under the Suicide Act, 1961, which prohibits aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring suicide. He had no doubt that the society would comply with such a ruling.

Mr Brown said it was hard to believe that drafting and disseminating the booklet was consistent with any belief other than that it would "enable a number of people to commit suicide who otherwise would not".

It was absurd to suppose that receipt of the booklet would never be a precipitating factor in a suicide.

The booklet's preface, written by Arthur Koestler, who recently committed suicide with his wife, refers to the "nightmare of the botched attempt" and information in the booklet was intended to help to overcome such fears and provide an effective and without failure or brain damage, he said.

Mr Brown said the Attorney General had decided to act against the booklet after receiving an accumulation of evidence from police throughout the country.

He had sought that material after the death of a man aged 22 at Clarendon Hotel, London, in July 1981. The man was found with a copy of the booklet and

had used one of the six methods of suicide outlined in it.

Mr Brown said the police reports showed a "striking link" between suicides and the booklet. Sir Michael therefore felt obliged to take action.

He chose civil proceedings because "given the essential responsibility of society and its evident belief not only in the moral propriety of its actions but also its legal entitlement to publish and distribute the booklet, the Attorney General was loathe to prosecute for the offence, being one punishable by up to 14 years in prison."

Mr Geoffrey Robertson, opening the case for the society, criticized that decision. He said the matter should be dealt with by Parliament and not the courts, particularly the civil

courts, where there was no right to jury trial.

The civil courts should be used to determine breaches of the criminal law only in highly exceptional circumstances.

Mr Robertson said the society did not intend its actions to encourage suicide or result in a suicide which could not otherwise have been attempted or committed, and it believed some people would be deterred by the booklet.

It had committed no offence, he said.

The executive committee members named in the summons are: Mrs Brenda Able, Mr Harry Ree, Miss Celia Fremlin, Mrs Jean Davies, and Miss Barbara Smoker, the society's chairman.

The hearing continues today.

House buying surges to 1980 levels as prices rise by 5%

By Baron Phillips, Property Correspondent

There has been a spring surge in house prices throughout London, the South-east, the South-west, and parts of the North and the Midlands, according to the latest residential market survey.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' monthly report on house prices, published today, shows that two-thirds of all estate agents taking part in the survey indicated rises of between 2 and 5 per cent and one in seven say that the cost of houses has increased by more than 5 per cent.

Homes in Greater London and the Home Counties are showing the largest rises, according to the report. An agent in Edmonton, north London, comments that over the last two months property prices have risen by between 5 and 8 per cent.

In Orpington, Kent, lower priced homes are selling for as much as 8 per cent more than at the beginning of the year.

However, it is not only the more affluent Home Counties that are witnessing the upsurge in house prices. In the depressed West Midlands agents are reporting that the market is more buoyant than for the past two or three years, with shortages of all types of property.

For the first time since the autumn of 1979 the institution says that less than a third of its participating members are reporting no price changes during the last quarter.

A burst of house hunting during March has meant that houses across the country which had been languishing on estate agents' books for up to a year have now come under offer.

In the East Midlands a Hinderley firm commented that several houses which had been on the market for a year or more had been sold.

Demand is generally strongest for pre-1919 terraced houses which are usually sought by first-time buyers.

However, new property estate agents as far apart as Yorkshire and East Anglia are reporting faster sales in the more expensive categories. Agents in York are saying that homes at more than £75,000 are selling well and the same is being reported in Newmarket.

An agent in Barnes, south-west London, commented in the survey that demand for houses in the £100,000 to £150,000 range is not being satisfied because of an acute shortage.

However, in spite of this buoyant market agents are expressing concern over a shortage of mortgage finance. Mortgage queues are reported even in parts of the North, where demand is not at its strongest, and in Newcastle, Washington, and in the East Midlands.

Areas of highest demand, such as London and the South-east, have lists for loans. In London, for example, a prospective purchaser can expect to wait three or four months for a mortgage.

Mr John Thomas, the institution's housing market spokesman, commented: "The burst of activity in Budget month was to be expected, but contrary to some recent headlines, no agents have reported gazzumping by sellers."

Surgeon 'could have simulated suicide'

By David Nicholson-Lord

A surgeon convicted of poisoning his mentally ill wife with a rare anticancer drug could have disposed of her by the much simpler course of writing to the Voluntary Euthanasia Society (formerly Exit), or simulating suicide through an overdose of barbiturates, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Yet Paul Vickers, aged 48, "virtually put his name up in lights" when obtaining prescriptions for the drug CCNU, Mr Gilbert Gray, QC, told the court. There was no attempt to conceal his name or address with a doctor's spidery writing.

"It was virtually a visiting card", Mr Gray added. "He was running the most enormous peril."

Vickers, formerly head of the accident department at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead, is seeking leave to appeal against his conviction at Teesside Crown Court in November, 1981, for the murder of his wife. He was sentenced to life imprisonment with a recommendation by Mr Justice Boreham, the trial judge, that he serve a minimum of 17 years.

The grounds of appeal include alleged defects in the trial judge's summing up of medical evidence and his directions to the jury on the alternative verdict of manslaughter. There is also an application to call fresh evidence from three *News of the World* reporters who interviewed Miss Pamela Collison, Vickers's codefendant, after she was acquitted of murder.

Vickers, of Moor Crescent, Gosforth, was brought from Wakefield prison for yesterday's hearing. Dressed in a dark suit and tie, he betrayed little emotion from the dock, occasionally leaning forward to concentrate on points of evidence.

Mr Gray said there was no medical evidence that CCNU, which is undetectable after death and was used to create in

Closer link for man's two families

Mr John Knight's mistress and their nine children are to be rehoused in the Cornish village where his wife and their 11 children live.

Mrs Claire Martens has accepted the tenancy of two council cottages at Doublebois, near Liskeard, which are to be converted into one house.

Her new home will be 200 yards from the detached house which Mrs Caroline Knight, who is again pregnant, took over just before Christmas.

Caradon and North Cornwall district councils agreed the arrangements after Mr Knight and the women said they did not want to be rehoused miles apart.

Janet Reger reopens shop

The glamorous Janet Reger women's underwear shop reopened in London yesterday, three months after the business collapsed with debts of £1m.

The firm will "concentrate on the upper price level", Miss Reger said at the shop in Beauchamp Place, Knightsbridge, opened with the help of a bank loan and investments by employees, some of whom are working without wages.

£11,000 'closed shop' award

Mr Gordon Phillips, aged 53, who was dismissed after working for 30 years with Clayton-Dewandre, brake manufacturers in Lincoln, when a closed shop was introduced by the unions, received £11,000 in compensation yesterday under the terms of the Employment Act, 1982.

The industrial tribunal which had previously dismissed his case agreed that the employers were "over a barrel" because the closed shop was allowed under law.

Korsa-Acquah remanded

Stephen Korsa-Acquah, aged 20, of no fixed address, was remanded in custody for a week yesterday by Bristol magistrates accused of four bank robberies, attempted murder and kidnapping.

Among the charges are attempting to murder Police Constable Owen Lelen, kidnapping Mr Tony Hutton, a lorry driver, and robbing Lloyds Bank in Bond Street, Bristol.

Threat to girls

London magistrates' courts are being used by men looking for young girls from the provinces who can be lured into prostitution after court appearances, according to Mr Eric Crowther, the magistrate at West London Court, writing in *Justice of the Peace*.

Trader jailed

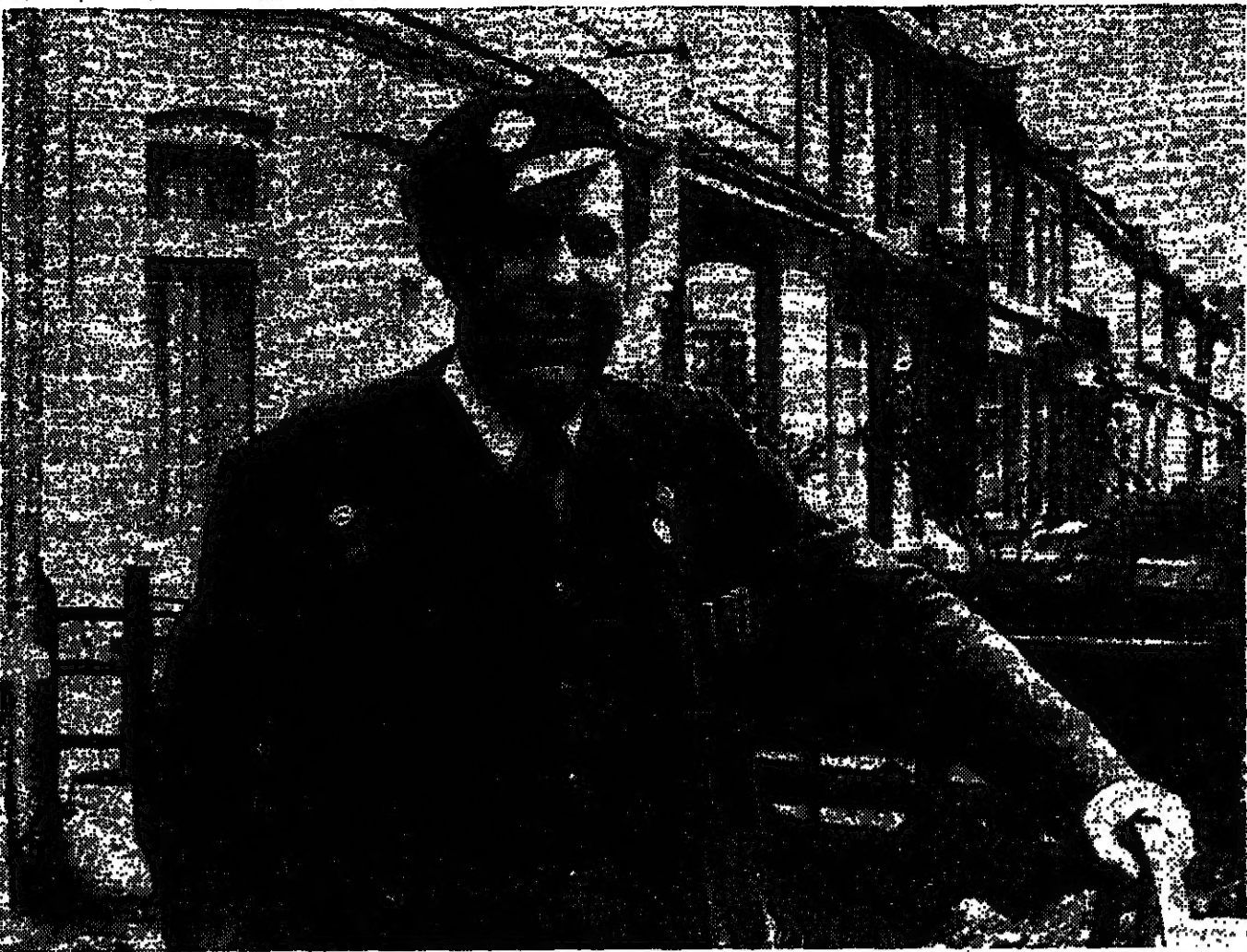
Robert Hay, aged 43, a street trader, of Matland Park, Hampstead, west London, was jailed for five years in the Central Criminal Court yesterday for conspiring to steal mail from a train. Four others admitted their part in the attempted robbery last week.

Father's appeal

Mr Arnold Atkins, the father of Gillian Atkins, aged 14, who was murdered made a plea yesterday at Bourne, Lincolnshire, police station to the killer, or anyone who knows his identity, to go to the police.

Dead nurse film

Mr Ronald Smith is supporting plans to make a film about the death of his daughter Helen, aged 23, a nurse, who died during an illegal party in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, nearly four years ago.



Mr Christopher Hughes outside his home in Ponders End, north London (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

Driver aims for Mastermind title

By David Hewson

Mr Christopher Hughes, aged 35, a London Tube driver, will know tonight whether he is the BBC's new *Mastermind*.

But like the other three finalists and the audience, he will be sworn to secrecy about the result, which will be revealed only with the final's transmission on May 8.

Mr Hughes has established himself as the leading authority on the exploits of Mr Harry Flashman, the Victorian military hero, sportsman and cad.

His television performance on Sunday night, in which he answered correctly 18 questions about Flashman's en-

chaunted, though scurrilous life, astonished Mr George MacDonald Fraser, the author, who is normally regarded as the leading expert on the character of the wholly understandable ground that Flashman's deeds are his creation.

"I thought he was marvellous", Mr Fraser said from his home in the Isle of Man. "He got two more answers than I did. I could not remember the name of a woman in the Indian Mutiny and I wrongly anticipated a question about Palmerston meeting Flashman."

"If I had had the time, I would have been right on both,

but he startled me because of the way he went through it."

In fact, the seven Flashman novels, in which real historical detail is cunningly intermingled with the cowardly machinations of a character first seen as the form bully in *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, were Mr Hughes's second choice as a specialist subject.

After winning his first heat on British Steam Locomotives 1900 to 1968, a subject to which he will return tonight, he wanted to opt for questions on C. S. Forester's Hornblower books in the semi-final, only to find that they had been selected by another contestant.

At Christmas Mr Hughes

decided to take the Flashman books instead, and set about rereading them.

Yesterday morning, unmoved by any nerves at the prospect of tonight's final at the Middle Temple, he clocked on for his morning shift driving a Tube train between Cockfosters and Heathrow, returned home at lunchtime to eat with his mother.

Mr Hughes left school at the age of 15 with four O levels and found a job working with steam engines as a British Rail fireman. When the passing of steam ruled out his ambition to become an engine driver, he joined London Transport.

War widows get Labour support for grave visits

By Michael Hannall

The campaign for government assistance to enable war widows to visit the overseas graves of their husbands received a boost yesterday when Mr Merlyn Rees, the former Home Secretary, said he will press in the House of Commons for the Government to provide facility trips to the graves.

His scheme envisages a start with those widowed in 1914 and allows for a steady progression through the ranks of those who lost servicemen husbands until 1967, when the Government introduced the present policy of providing facility visits to the graves of men who died after that date.

The proposal coincided with an attack on government statistics which according to Ministry of Defence spokesmen make sponsored visits too expensive to entertain. Although there are 64,000 widows of Servicemen killed in action before 1967, mostly in the Second World War, it is estimated that fewer than 10,000 would want to make such visits. Allowing for £500 a head, which is regarded as a realistic figure, it would mean a cost to the government of no more than £5m.

Mrs Iris Strange, the secretary of British War Widows and Associates, the organization which is leading the campaign for visits, said: "If you take into account those who do not want to go, those who have already paid their last respects and those whose husbands' last resting places are not known, you are left with surprisingly few widows."

"Those who wish to go and cannot afford to do so have in many cases spent a lifetime yearning to go and they must be allowed to before it is too late."

Mr Rees has twice written to Mrs Margaret Thatcher urging government assistance, but she replied that the numbers would be too large and any scheme too difficult and expensive to organize.

24 new companies make it a record month for Wales.

The number of businesses changing to settle in Wales hit an all-time peak in February. Most of the newcomers are in the high-tech industry sector.

A spokesman for the Welsh Development Agency said: "We are delighted to welcome these recent arrivals."

Hunt man cleared over cat killed by hounds

The whipper-in of the Berkeley Hunt was cleared yesterday of criminal damage and cruelty to a pet cat killed by hounds on a Gloucestershire caravan site.

Magistrates at Whitminster dismissed summonses brought by the owner of the cat, Mrs Dorothy Newman, supported by the League Against Cruel Sports, against Patrick Martin, aged 25, of the Kennels, Berkeley.

The court was told that the hounds mauled the cat to death after they killed a fox they had pursued on to Berkeley Vale Caravan Park on February 27 last year.

Mr Edward Cazelet, defending, said Mr Martin did all he could to stop the pack entering the site and was not aware of the attack on the cat.

The magistrates ordered that the costs of both sides be paid from central funds.

Last December the league persuaded the High Court to overturn the magistrates' original decision not to issue summonses.

Yesterday, Mr Edmund Lawson, for the prosecution, told the court that Mrs Christine Wilcox, who lived on the site, snatched the 15-year-old cat, called Budgie, from the hounds, but it died.

Mr Lawson did not suggest Mr Martin intended that the cat should be harmed, but he was "reckless" in allowing the hounds into the caravan park.

Mrs Wilcox, who now lives at Hinton Court, Berkeley, said she saw about six dogs attacking the cat.

"They were playing me-off with it. I managed to punch one of the dogs on the nose. I grabbed the cat and pulled it away." The cat bit and scratched her as it tried to escape.



Mr Martin "Struck in the face"

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Politics deprives 'peace' of any charitable status

LEGAL AFFAIRS

After the final decision in the Moonies case it might be necessary to look at the whole position of charity law. Sir Michael Havers, Attorney General, said after he had told the Commons that he had made representations for the withdrawal of charitable status only in respect of the two charitable trusts associated with the Unification Church.

Mr Alfred Dubs (Wandsworth, Battersea, South, Lab) is raising the issue asked: Does he agree that the law and practice on what constitutes charitable status is confused, that it leads to the difficulty of distinguishing between charitable work and lobbying, which leads to the Charity Commissioners having to make difficult political judgments, and that results in anomalies such as organizations that want to further peace and disarmament being denied charitable status while it is not denied to organizations such as the British Atlantic Committee?

Sir Michael Havers: I think the problem is that the Charity Commissioners have to work on existing law. If indeed the law should be changed, if that is the purpose of his question, then that question should be addressed to the Home Secretary.

Mr Michael Morris (Northampton, South, C): Is he aware that the

1990 target date for lead-free petrol

POLLUTION

The Government has accepted a recommendation from the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution that lead additives in petrol should be phased out, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced in a statement in the Commons.

Replying to questions, he said he hoped that 1990 would be the date from which all new vehicles would be required to use 92 octane lead-free petrol.

Mr King said in his report, before discussing a range of particular problems and policy options, the commission reviewed the sources of lead in the environment, the pathways by which it enters living systems, and its effect on man and animals.

They stress that there is still uncertainty about the effects on individuals of the low levels of lead typical in the United Kingdom. They note that features of lead poisoning occasionally occur at blood-lead levels of about 50 microgrammes per 100 millilitres of blood, and that at present the UK population is about one-quarter of that level.

They continue: "We are not aware of any other toxin which is so widespread in the environment, and which is also universally present at levels that exceed even one-tenth of that at which clinical signs and symptoms may occur."

They conclude: "It would be prudent to take steps to increase the safety margin for the population as a whole."

The royal commission's report contains a number of recommendations covering all the sources of exposure to lead, including water, paint, and food and drink.

They recommend the action already taken by this Government under the programme that I announced to the House two years ago. They now recommend further action in certain areas.

For example, the completion of our programme for treating naturally acidic drinking water to reduce

Foreign Secretary attacks Soviet aid policy

BRANDT REPORT

The United Kingdom has been at the forefront of moves to waive debts, not only from least developed countries, as recommended by Brandt, but also from other developing countries. The most loans have been converted to grants.

Traditionally, Britain had been generous contributors to the World Bank and regional development banks, and had envisaged because on top of everything else the industrial world had produced a crisis in its financial arrangements which could lead to the collapse of the private banking system.

Because the industrial world had a direct responsibility for the suffering in the third world, it also had a duty to help remove it. The central message of the Foreign Secretary's Brandt report was that the industrial world also had a direct material interest in working with the third world to get out of the crisis.

The fall in imports by the third world, the Brandt report said, was likely to cut 1 per cent off the growth otherwise possible in industrialized countries and one in six jobs in the United States depended on export to the third world.

The financial crisis facing the industrial world was the inevitable consequence of the neo-monetarist policies pursued by most western countries over the last few years. This meant a deliberate blow for the third world. On top of having to absorb a large increase in the price of oil, it had to absorb similar increases in the price of money to buy the oil with.

The Brandt report said the third world today owed at least as much to the increase in the price of money as it did to the increase in the price of oil. The recession had cut demand for the commodities which were their main source of income and cut the price those commodities commanded to the lowest for 30 years.

Thatcher: Recovery under way

INDUSTRY

The Labour Party had a vested interest in gloom and doom and the Thatcher recovery in Britain was now under way, Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Industry and Information Technology, said in the Commons. He added that there could be no longer a recovery which did not start from a low rate of inflation.

That was why the Government had set out to achieve that in 1979 and it was what it had achieved.

Mr John Garrett, an Opposition spokesman on industry, countered by saying that business failures had reached an all-time record this year, at 88 a month, compared with 25 when Labour was last in power, and that the present Government had wiped out a fifth of British manufacturing capacity since it came to office.

Mr Joan Evans (Aberdare, Lab) opened the exchanges, said that last year, for the first time since the industrial revolution, the United Kingdom had been importing more goods than it was exporting.

Mr Baker replied that the decline of manufacturing production had not affected Britain only, and production in other countries had declined significantly more than in Britain in 1982. In the United States, it had been 8 1/2 per cent, France 1 1/2 per cent, Germany 2 1/2 per cent and in Britain only 1/4 per cent.

This is clear evidence (he said) that we are pulling out of recession ahead of our partners.

Mr John Grant (Ilkington, Central, SDP): If the Minister is so sure of the economic upturn and June is busting out all over the Government benches, why do ministers find it necessary to try to suppress the recent National Economic Development Council report which showed a different picture, particularly of employment prospects?

Mr Baker: There was no attempt to

Increased demand for British steel

There was evidence of increased demand for British steel products, Mr John Birtcher, Under Secretary of State for Industry, said during Commons questions.

Responding to a question by Mr Ray Hughes (Newport, Lab) that the Secretary of State for Industry should initiate talks with leaders of motor manufacturing companies operating in the United Kingdom to discuss the need to use British steel in their products.

Mr Birtcher said: It is for British steelmakers to prove that they can produce the right product in terms of quality, price and delivery, and to compete with other suppliers with any potential customers.

Mr Hughes said that when the all-party motor group recently visited the Ford Motor Company at Dagenham they were told that only 20 per cent of British steel was being used in the models being produced there, a pretty disquieting figure.

Multinational companies should be asked to show a bit of patriotism to the countries in which they operate, particularly when they get such large Government handouts.

Mr Birtcher: My information is that Ford Motor Company plan to increase their take-up of steel from one third to one half of their requirements in the United King-

Insolvency law review

Urgent consideration was being given by the Government to the programme of legislation which would be needed to provide a modern body of insolvency law, Lord Lyell, a Government spokesman, told the House of Lords at question time.

Lord Bruce of Donington, for the Opposition, said urgent steps should be taken to define the duties of receivers, many of whom had been disposing of assets on behalf of debenture holders at a fraction of their real value; the interests of the unsecured creditors had gone completely unprotected.

Lord Lyell said that on the question of receivers selling assets at below realistic cost the Government had not had any major complaints.

Fire alarm that speaks its warning

The sound of things that whistle, warble and scream in the night echoed across the hall in London yesterday at the opening of one of the world's largest security exhibitions.

Six hundred exhibitors, covering everything from fire hazards to electronically traceable suitcases for paying ransom, are taking part in the International Fire, Security and Safety Exhibition and Conference, which is now in its eleventh year.

Among new developments is a fibre optic security system for use under water and a fire alarm system which includes a speech synthesizer, which replaces the traditional siren or bell with a verbal warning giving details of the type of emergency.

For more than £10,000 one manufacturer is offering a laser system for eavesdropping on rooms where microphones cannot be hidden, and a home-owner can now install a closed circuit television system to monitor his front door for less than £200.

With the increasing use of firearms in the mind, one firm is offering body armour for helicopters which are now being used by police forces in Britain and what is claimed to be the first bulletproof vest designed specifically for women.

A simple floor safe for the home is on sale for £80 and a do-it-yourself firm is launching an electronic alarm system which can work from a battery or the mains. It can be left anywhere in the house and linked to external sirens or a mat which will set off the alarm when someone puts pressure on it.

CND wants to send out government leaflets and 'let the public decide'

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is to ask the Government for supplies of its leaflets on cruise, Trident and the nuclear debate, to send out with CND's own leaflets as part of the "public education" advertising campaign it is to launch shortly.

Mr Bruce Kent, general secretary of CND, said: "We are confident that our arguments are right and believe we can send people both our case and the Government's and let them make up their own minds."

Since Mr Heseltine has decided we have closed minds and cannot be debated with, it seems the nearest we can get to ask for the leaflets that set

Whitehall brief

"We have to work very much by a ripple effect. It helps if the ripples are not damaged at source because not enough care has been taken to persuade people that all this disturbance is good for them. That is the frustration of education. It takes an unreasonable time to get the great machine moving more than 100 local education authorities, half a million teachers."

The question that has teased me throughout my time is: 'Could it be done more quickly without running the risk that a large part of the audience will turn off?'

This is the central dilemma of education policy. My own personal view is that it can be done quicker. One of the things I have tried to do is to explain to the department that sometimes it is a little too difficult about using its expertise, which is considerable."

It was a question about the curriculum which prompted such candour from Sir James. Since Mr James Callaghan's famous "great debate" speech on education at Ruskin College,

Hand-wringing world of education

In 1977, successive education ministers of both parties have been trying to enrich the quality of state education by prodding local authorities into accepting the need for a solid core of provision.

Sir James, after nearly seven years, still exudes an air of unfinished business.

He is delighted that in January the reports of the school inspectorate began to be published and that last month the White Paper on *Teaching Quality* appeared. But he clearly would have liked to have started the provision for 16 to 19s.

For the universities reeling from the cuts though he does not believe we lag behind our competitors at this level, Sir James departs with a soothing message: "What we now need is a period of quietude and stability to let them pick up the pieces."

Farming in Britain: 2

Taking the fat with the lean

There is no such person as a typical farmer. Agriculture embraces a wide variety of activities, on a scale ranging from multimillion pound enterprises to smallholdings that barely provide a livelihood. JOHN YOUNG, Agriculture Correspondent, talks to four men of contrasting experience and outlook.

Mr James Taylor divides his time between his 700-acre farm in Hereford and Worcester, and his unpaid duties as chairman of the National Farmers' Union technical and machinery committee.

The farm is evenly divided between arable crops and 100-strong herds of Jersey and Ayrshire dairy cows.

Milk, which earns him a premium for high quality, has always provided his staple income. But he sees the future as "distinctly clouded" and, although "technologically inclined" is in two minds about whether to spend money on computerizing his feeding and milking operations.

"With consumption of liquid milk continuing to decline, we cannot be sure of regular price increases in the past", he says.

Any reasonably competent farmer should make money out of dairying at present, he says, although it is more difficult for those on marginal land with a shorter grazing season. Corn, in contrast, has not proved the bonanza it is often depicted to be. "Usually something goes wrong with the winter crop. This year was lucky in having a dry February and being able to sow the spring crop early."

He employs eight men, and this year took on an apprentice. He is worried about the implications of the Agricultural

Wages Board's decision to bring forward negotiations on a new round of increases this year.

There are plenty of people who would be very glad to get what our craftsmen earn.

Mr Bill Dixon, now 68, has been raising chickens since he was 15. In that time he has seen poultry change from a luxury item to a staple ingredient of the British diet, so that the rearing of birds for slaughter has become a mass production industry.

"Some of my contemporaries have done very well indeed. One of them is a big racehorse owner and another lives in Monte Carlo. But a lot of people went into the business with their service gratuities after the last war, thinking they were going to make their fortunes, and they did not."

Country Style, the firm he started, was bought by Unilever and Union International in 1965. He is now semi-retired, but helps his son to run a 250,000-bird broiler farm near Ripon, North Yorkshire.

In many ways he regrets the way the industry has developed.

He believes that poultry has become too cheap in comparison with other meats.

Mr Andrew Dales is a mushroom grower and chairman of the West Sussex Growers' Association, which embraces nurseries between Worthing and Chichester. Its members produce vegetables, fruit and flowers in an area originally favoured because of its relatively long hours of sunlight.

For the horticultural industry as a whole, these are difficult times. Fuel costs have multi-

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Market day: Buyers bidding for sheep at Smithfield.

Sheep farmers in Britain benefit from an EEC subsidy which lifts market prices towards those achieved in the rest of the Community.



Mogabe and P... socialism

مذا من رلاص

Mugabe flays corruption and plans more socialism for Zimbabwe

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

Zimbabwe entered the fourth year of its independence yesterday with celebrations across the country, military displays and indications that a more rigorous socialist policy will be pursued in the year ahead.

Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, attended a rally in Harare at which President Canaan Banana, delivering the key address, said the next year of independence threatened to be "probably the most difficult period we Zimbabweans have yet had to face".

Although Zimbabwe remained one of the most peaceful and stable countries in the developing world there had been a spread over the past year of "a cancerous virus... the dissident menace, which poses an intolerable threat to our continued peace, and prosperity," the President said.

A scheduled display at the rally by the Fifth Brigade, the unit charged with responsibility for recent massacres in Matabeleland was cancelled and substituted by a demonstration of unarmed combat by the new Presidential Guard.

Mr Mugabe has had little to say over the anniversary weekend about the Matabeleland troubles and has concentrated on economic objectives and problems.

In a speech to the nation on Sunday evening he fore-shadowed a leadership shake-up with a scathing attack on

corruption and what he termed bourgeois tendencies in ministers.

In an apparent reference to the recent dismissal of the Midlands city of Gweru he attacked "unscrupulous" officials for swindling and misappropriation of public funds.

"Even Cabinet ministers, with a more theoretical and thus hypocritical commitment to socialism: have, under one guise or another, proceeded to acquire huge properties by way of farms and other business concerns," he said.

The severity of Mr Mugabe's words appeared to herald a long-anticipated reshuffle in the Cabinet which, with 32 ministries, is unusually large and costly for a country of Zimbabwe's size and resources.

His utterances in the lead-up to the anniversary also point to a more overtly socialist programme in economic policy.

A professed Marxist, Mr Mugabe has followed a pragmatic economic course in the past three years but on Friday announced plans for large-scale nationalisation of industry.

Writing in *Zimbabwe News*, the mouthpiece of the ruling Zanu (PF) Party, he said the Government intended to acquire control of the grain milling, fuel procurement and national transport industries and "many other areas falling under the various economic

sectors". He gave no details.

That intention may be the ultimate deterrent for foreign investment in Zimbabwe. But as there has been only one substantial infusion of investment since independence Mr Mugabe may have decided he will be losing by proceeding on a course which accords more with his natural inclinations.

Officer drain hits Air Force

The Zimbabwean Air Force has been hit by a spate of resignations as the trial approaches of seven officers facing charges over the sabotage operation which devastated the Air Force last year. Seven group captains and three wing commanders have resigned and will be leaving in the next two months, our foreign staff writes.

A number of lower ranks, including squadron leaders and pilots, are also departing, having opted to take early retirement under the so-called Muzorewa incentive scheme. Drafted in the year before independence, this allows members of the armed forces and civil services to transfer every April a third of their pensions outside Zimbabwe.

Although a similar number of Air Force personnel have resigned in previous years, this is the first time so many top-ranking officers have resigned in one batch.



Papal greeting: The Pope meeting the Armenian Patriarch Karekine II to consecrate Mass on the outskirts of Rome yesterday.

Korean disco death toll reaches 25

From Jacqueline Reditt, Seoul

Twenty-five South Koreans died and 67 others were injured, most of them teenagers, when fire swept through a disco club here early yesterday.

Many of the victims were suffocated to death by smoke or poisonous gas while others were crushed in the attempt to escape when fire broke out at the club

in Taegu, the third largest city in South Korea.

A witness, who escaped, said that as fire spread through the disco which is on the second floor, the place was plunged into darkness. About 150 people fled from the dance floor and fought to escape down a steep, narrow staircase. One person

tripped on the stairs and others behind him fell.

According to first reports, an emergency door was shut with chairs in front of it, apparently to prevent customers leaving without paying their bills.

Police are investigating the cause of the fire, thought to be an electrical short-circuit.

Why exercises took Spain by surprise

By Harry Debelius, Madrid

Spain's defence ministry was informed about naval manoeuvres off Gibraltar more than two weeks before "the Falklands fleet" arrived at the Rock, but the foreign ministry did not find out until Gibraltar television reported the fleet's impending arrival on April 8, according to a report yesterday in the monarchist daily *ABC*.

In an article signed by Alberto Miguez, the newspaper said the British Admiralty informed Spanish and Moroccan naval authorities late last month, and in Spain's case the information was transmitted via the naval attaché at the Spanish Embassy in London.

The lack of coordination between ministries, the article said, resulted in "the British fleet entering Gibraltar to the surprise of the public and in the face of apparent indifference on the part of those who already knew and the confusion of our diplomacy".

The paper also reported that the Gibraltar Assembly was to study measures related to the opening of the frontier with Spain. Among such measures to be considered yesterday, *ABC* said, was a proposal to impose a tax on Gibraltarians visiting Spain.

In another Madrid daily, *Diario 16*, Señor Fernando Arias Salgado, a diplomat and former Centre Party politician, referred to the tension over Gibraltar and maintained that Spain's foreign affairs activity showed "a growing lack of coordination at the administrative level, with regard both to

the principle of unified action and to public expenditure".

Madrid's Monday morning weekly *Hoja Del Lunes* assured readers in the main story on its front page: "Another new delay in the Spanish-British talks about Gibraltar is about to occur."

● GIBRALTAR: After a five-day operational visit the aircraft carrier *Invincible* and the other warships in the Navy flotilla sailed out to begin the annual Spring Train exercise in Atlantic waters. A submarine led them out, helicopters flew over head and a second submarine brought up the rear.

The Spanish destroyer *Languara*, anchored more than a mile away in Algeciras Bay and which had been on lone surveillance duty, also left afterwards as scheduled. Its mission had been described by Madrid naval sources as "emphasizing Spain's presence in waters of its national jurisdiction".

Señor Fernando Morán, the Spanish Foreign Minister, who ordered last week's diplomatic protest, has emphasized that Spain does not recognize any other national jurisdiction in the waters around Gibraltar, only "tolerance of the passage of ships".

Prince Andrew, aged 23, a helicopter pilot on the *Invincible*, appeared publicly on shore only once.

Many Gibraltarians believe that the Prince was observing strict instructions from the Queen to keep a low profile after his indiscretions recently in the Caribbean.

Zhao accuses Vietnam of invading Thailand

Canberra (Reuters) - Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, accused Vietnam yesterday of invading Thailand and said Hanoi was undermining stability in South-East Asia by repeated military action along the border with China.

"I am sure, the Vietnamese aggressors have to this day persisted in their armed occupation of Kampuchea and recently have gone further by frenziedly invading Thailand," Mr Zhao said in a speech to a parliamentary lunch in Canberra.

"What is more, they have repeatedly carried out military provocations along China's border. These actions... have seriously undermined the security and stability of South-East Asia."

The New China news agency said at the weekend that Chinese artillery had destroyed surface fortifications and earth defence works in Vietnam after frequent Vietnamese border attacks in the last month.

Diplomatic sources in Peking said the clashes between the two neighbours, who fought a bitter war in 1979, were clearly linked with Vietnamese raids on the Thai-Kampuchean border.

China's apparent aim was to distract Vietnam from its dry season offensive against Kampuchean guerrillas, they added.

Asian and Western diplomats say there is an understanding that China would react on its

border with Vietnam if Thailand felt threatened by Hanoi's troops in Kampuchea.

Mr Zhao also called for the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea and Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

"Foreign troops of occupation must be withdrawn from Kampuchea and Afghanistan... and the problems of each country should be solved by its own people free from outside interference," he said.

Mr Zhao, the highest ranking Chinese leader to visit Australia in a decade, later met Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister who expressed concern over the Sino-Vietnamese border clashes.

Mr Hawke called on both countries to exercise restraint, an Australian official said, adding that the talks were frank and open. A similar message would be conveyed to Hanoi.

Mr Zhao was expected to raise among objection to Mr Hawke's plan to resume economic aid to Vietnam.

China's relations with the United States, badly strained by President Reagan's support for Taiwan, were also discussed at the talks. The Chinese leader was highly critical of US policy.

● HANOI: Seventeen people were killed or wounded by mortar shells as China pounded Vietnamese positions for the third successive day, officials said here yesterday, AFP reports.

Election trend, page 7.

Prisoners of conscience



China: Chen Lu

By Caroline Moorehead

Mr Chen Lu, a technician, aged 39, has been in detention since March 29, 1979, when he was arrested at his home in Peking.

It is believed he has not been tried, and it is not known where he is being held.

In the two years after the fall of the Gang of Four in October 1976, a number of unofficial groups were set up, publishing small journals calling for the need to respect human rights and emphasizing the importance of free debate in Chinese society. The international press called this an "emerging free movement".

In the main Chinese cities, posters blossomed on the walls and in Peking one in particular soon became known as the Democracy Wall, and was widely regarded as a forum for democratic reforms and human rights.

Mr Chen became a member of the Human Rights Alliance, one of the better-known unofficial groups. His home address was used openly as a letter-box for the Alliance.

Towards the middle of March, 1979, the official Chinese press started criticising people who were said to be going too far in their demands for democracy.

Mr Chen was only one of many to be arrested, but is now one of the few not to have been released.

Finns try to save talks on security

From Olli Kivinen, Helsinki

The eight neutral and non-aligned participants in the Madrid follow-up meeting of the European Security Conference (CSE) have issued a last-minute appeal of all heads of government to save the process from a total collapse.

The appeal, initiated by President Koivisto of Finland, urges all participants to accept the draft final document put forward by the neutral and non-aligned countries when the Madrid talks are resumed today.

Finland officials briefing journalists on the appeal said that the 34 CSE participants are very near to a compromise, and all important policy matters have been settled. Only the political will to take the final step is missing.

The appeal points out that the Helsinki Final Act is European states and the United States and Canada, but it is now feared that the whole process is in danger if results cannot be achieved in the Madrid conference, which has dragged on for two and half years.

The appeal points out that the draft includes concrete steps in all areas covered by the Helsinki Final Act, including military confidence-building measures and human rights.

If no understanding is reached, it is feared that the whole CSE process will be endangered.

● MOSCOW: The Warsaw Pact military council, which plans activities of the communist alliance, will meet in Bucharest during the last 10 days of April, Tass announced.

The council, which has mainly organizational and administrative functions, met last in October 1981 in Budapest. Its members are the Soviet Union, Poland, East Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Romania.

Security doctrine, page 12

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1976

The Security Council unanimously calls for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of South Africa from Namibia and for free and fair elections in the Territory under United Nations supervision and control;

1978

The Security Council adopts plan for Namibia's independence;

1983

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The gentle Gandhi forgotten in India

From Trevor Fishlock
Delhi

Just after the premiere of Sir Richard Attenborough's film *Gandhi*, in Delhi, the Indian cartoonist R. L. Laxman published a drawing of two men emerging from a cinema where the film was showing.

One man is saying: "I understand it is based on a true life story". There are many Indians who welcome the Attenborough film as a reminder of Gandhi's actions and teachings because they feel that, to some extent, the Mahatma, engineer of India's independence, has been forgotten in his own land.

Many of the young, who have to study his life in school, see him as largely irrelevant in terms of their own ideas about India in the 1980s, a faded and somewhat cranky figure in history.

There are many in the middle classes, especially Westernized people who tend to view him as an eccentric, just as some of his contemporaries did. He was a difficult and irritating man. Indian feelings about him are so complex and sensitive - a mixture of pride, guilt and embarrassment - that it would be very hard for any Indian to attempt what Sir Richard Attenborough did.

The film has been generally well received in India; but it remains a subject of controversy in the newspapers and in conversation and is the cultural talking point of the year. It has made many reflect on the work of a man they do not know well.

Gandhi's image and ideas are often invoked - he was, after all, the father of independent India - but he is something of a totem and there are few who sincerely believe his methods and philosophy have practical application today.

His image is everywhere. Politicians frequently refer to Gandhian principles of self-help, service and humility. A visit to the Mahatma's cremation site in Delhi is obligatory for every visiting foreign notable. Even when bandits surrender publicly to the authorities a picture of the Mahatma is on the surrender platform.

Many politicians wear clothing made of homespun cotton and wool, a tradition stemming from Gandhi's rejection of Western dress.

Gandhi's methods of protest remain popular. "Civil disobedience", making a token breach of the law in order to be arrested, is a constantly employed device, and fasting, which has a particular Gandhian symbolism, is frequently used to apply pressure on the authorities.

Gandhi called the untouchables "Harijans", meaning God's Children, and the name has stuck. But treatment of them remains unpleasant and sometimes brutal. Their lot is very slowly improving, but attitudes to them remain largely entrenched. It was a part of the Indian granite that Gandhi barely chipped.

Gandhi is consigned to history in the Indian mind as an enigmatic and idiosyncratic man, a shrewd politician who saw how the British sense of justice could be exploited and knew, as they did, that the game was up in India.

His steady defiance of authority is remembered, but his gentler ideas are largely forgotten. He wanted the humble spinning wheel, which was his symbol, to be the device on India's national flag. But India chose the powerful wheel device of the Emperor Ashoka.

The Pope bluntly told the 300 members of the Trilateral Commission in an audience at the Vatican yesterday that they all came from rich countries and therefore bore the responsibility for encouraging people to face up to their duty of international solidarity.

The commission was formed 10 years ago and includes among its members some leading figures in public life from the United States, Europe and Japan. It is holding its fourteenth conference here.

The Pope reminded them that international solidarity not only involved relations between nations but all fields including governmental relations and those between multinational companies.

Their discussions were closely connected with man's future and so they would constantly find themselves facing the frontiers between technology and ethics.

of the time wandering around the city centre.

Governor Franco Montoro said that he wanted to talk with the protesters before behaving like previous governors and breaking heads. But there is also evidence that the police deliberately held back until the riots became so serious that they could not easily be controlled.

When Brazil's three most important states, São Paulo, Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro, passed into the hands of the opposition, the central Government removed control of the political and social police from the governors.

There are many groups with an interest in proving that the middle-of-the-road administrations promised for the three states do not prosper.

Identified by the police as playing a part were pressure groups from the left, including members of one of Brazil's two active supporters of Senator Montoro's PMDB party, for the expedient reason that they have space to operate and consolidate themselves under such an administration.

Some of these groups were apparently behaving in good faith, although with considerable naivety, in trying to put pressure on the incoming



Private visitor: Mrs Thatcher receiving Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, at Downing Street yesterday.

Reprisals feared as Libyans go on trial

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

The trial opened here yesterday of two Libyans accused of torturing their fellow-countrymen in West Germany against a background of intensive efforts by Bonn to free eight Germans held in Libya as hostages.

Dr Mustapha Zaidi, aged 31, and a student, Abdullah Yahia, are accused of causing bodily harm, unlawful imprisonment and coercion.

The prosecution maintains that on November 13 and 14 the two men tortured two students in the Libyan People's Bureau - the equivalent of an embassy - in Bonn, threatening them with forcible removal to Libya and death because of their contacts with Libyan opposition figures.

Dr Zaidi has been in custody since March 23 and Mr Yahia since April 5. Their trial opened amid strict security precautions, but was adjourned after a few hours as counsel for Mr Yahia

demanding more time to discuss the matter with his client.

Meanwhile Herr Jürgen Möllemann, the Deputy Foreign Minister, briefed Dr Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, on his talks in Libya with Major Abdul Salam Jalloud.

Herr Möllemann flew there on Saturday to try to secure the release of eight German businessmen who have been detained on unspecified charges in clear reprisal for the arrest of the Libyans in West Germany.

Some 3,000 Germans are working in Libya, where a big public campaign has opened against the Federal Republic in connection with the trial in Bonn. There is clear concern here that if the two Libyans are found guilty, the Germans will be used as hostages in the same way as American diplomats were in Tehran.

Pope tells rich to give more to Third World

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The Pope bluntly told the 300 members of the Trilateral Commission in an audience at the Vatican yesterday that they all came from rich countries and therefore bore the responsibility for encouraging people to face up to their duty of international solidarity.

The commission was formed 10 years ago and includes among its members some leading figures in public life from the United States, Europe and Japan. It is holding its fourteenth conference here.

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regime to do something urgently about the growing unemployment problem.

Senator Leonel Brizola in Rio de Janeiro, where a few food shops were also looted, has so far proved considerably more adept at retaining the initiative than the São Paulo governor. Because his electoral victory was so unexpected, and achieved without any extremist support, he has fewer debts to pay.

Senator Brizola has blamed the right-wing groups responsible for a bomb which exploded in the hands of a secret service officer who was about to plant it at a concert hall in Rio de Janeiro two years ago, and those who tried to manipulate the Rio de Janeiro election result in favour of the Government party. Even the police are not blaming the left exclusively, nor are the ministers from the armed forces.

It is not surprising that, after 19 years of military rule, in which an officer class has consolidated itself in positions of bureaucratic power, and the police have become very powerful, that there should be groups anxious to destabilize the opposition wherever it manages to make some gains.

The question of the succession to President Figueiredo also played a part. Former employees of the previous São Paulo administration were identified amongst the rioters. The state's previous governor, Senhor Paulo Maluf, is a strong presidential contender.

Concluded

Bonn anger over death at border

From Michael Binyon
Bonn

Herr Heinrich Windelen, the Minister for Relations with East Germany, has demanded an official explanation from East Berlin of how a West German traveller died on April 18 during questioning in East Germany by border guards.

The body of Herr Rudolf Burkert, a 45-year-old publisher, was sent back to West Germany in a sealed coffin with the explanation that he had died of a heart attack. West German Doctors, however, found numerous bruises on the body, cuts on the head and one eyelid, and a broken windpipe. These have led to suggestions that the man was severely beaten.

Herr Windelen asked for an explanation the next day without success, and the matter is to be taken up at the mixed border commission on Thursday. He has expressed fears that the details of what happened may never be known.

The incident has aroused considerable anger here, and comes at a time when an East German official has arrived to attend the Hanover Fair. Yesterday he was in Bonn for talks with government and opposition leaders in preparation for a possible visit by Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader.

Herr Günter Mittag, an economics expert in the East German Politburo, yesterday met Christian Democratic and liberal members of Parliament, as well as Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, the Social Democratic leader, who expressed deep concern over the border incident.

Herr Mittag was also due to hold talks with Dr Helmut Kohl, but late yesterday it was still not clear whether the Chancellor would receive him in view of the affair.

The dead man, a former boxer, crossed into East Germany with his wife to drive to a boxer's union in West Berlin. Some 50 miles inside the frontier he met the husband of a cousin at a motorway rest-stop and gave him a box of sweets as a gift from the Hamburg sports union.

At the East German border crossing into West Berlin, Herr Burkert was ordered out of his car and into a room for questioning. Two hours later a woman doctor went to his wife and told her he had died.

Tanzania wants a year to clear up corruption

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Tanzania intends to follow up its recent countrywide campaign against corruption and black marketing, which has now produced about 500 arrests, with a new law requiring all Tanzanians to have "gainful occupations".

Mr Edward Sokoine, the Prime Minister, announced this at a rally attended by 50,000 people in Dodoma, central Tanzania, when he asked the nation to give him a year to clear up "bad elements" in the Government and restore the country's self-respect.

The campaign against black marketers, smugglers and hoarders has been producing shortages of many items which for long have been obtainable only on the free - or black - market.

Accused absent at Seveso trial

Monza (Reuters) - A lawyer yesterday described as a disgrace the absence of five senior company officials charged with responsibility for the 1976 Seveso pollution disaster when their trial opened here in Italy.

Four hours after the trial began, the judge granted an adjournment until May 11 at the request of lawyers for both the north Italian town of Seveso and the Swiss owners of the chemical plant in which an explosion caused the calamity. Lawyers for the five defendants said their clients had chosen to exercise their right not to attend.

The blast contained about 4,500 acres with highly toxic dioxin, necessitating mass evacuation, killing animals and causing an outbreak of the skin rash chloracne.

About 200 people including the Mayor of Seveso told the court they were seeking compensation.

A lawyer representing former workers at the factory told reporters its owners, Givaudan, a subsidiary of the Swiss multinational chemicals company Hoffman-La Roche, asked for the delay to examine their demands, while lawyers for Seveso commune wanted time to negotiate with Givaudan for a financial settlement.

A lawyer representing 23 children whom he described as still suffering from chloracne as a result of the pollution said: "It is a disgrace that the accused are not here".

The accused are charged with responsibility for disaster, failure to provide adequate safety measures, and causing injury.

They are Guy Waldvogel, the former factory chairman, Herr von Zwenl, the managing director, Giovanni Radice, the technical director, Fritz Moeri the plant designer and Jörg Anton Sambeth, the technical director.

Left-wing guerrillas killed a sixth defendant, Paolo Paoletti, the production manager.

Several West European Governments have been demanding to know where the dioxin waste from Seveso has been dumped since 41 containers of the waste were removed from Italy by lorry last September and their whereabouts became a mystery.

Givaudan has paid 103,000 lire (£45m) to the Lombardy region, and separate sums to about 25,000 individuals and the nearby communes of Meda, Cesano Maderno and Desio; but has not reached a settlement with Seveso.

Of the defendants, only Signor Radice is Italian. Mr Waldvogel and Mr Moeri are Swiss. Herr von Zwenl and Herr Sambeth are West German.

In Paris yesterday, police reported an attempted bomb attack on an office belonging to Hoffman-La Roche. They said the bomb, which was defused, was probably linked to the controversial disappearance of 41 containers of toxic waste from Seveso.

Swedish protest startles UN leader

From Christopher Mosey
Stockholm

Peace activists attempted to disrupt a state visit to Sweden yesterday by Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary-General, using the occasion to draw attention to their country's arms exports to the Third World.

Demonstrators placed a barricade of cardboard boxes across the doorway of the main government administration building as the Secretary-General was about to enter, accompanied by Mr Olaf Palme, the Prime Minister, for a press conference. Each box was labelled with the name of a country receiving Swedish arms.

A security man kicked the boxes away and a startled Señor Pérez de Cuéllar was only slightly delayed.

The activists distributed leaflets calling for an end to arms exports to Indonesia and claimed the Swedish weapons had been used to help kill a third of the 700,000 inhabitants of East Timor, which Indonesia had occupied in defiance of a UN resolution.

10,000 Israelis demonstrate against Nablus expansion

From Christopher Walker, Nablus

A cluster of 15 inhospitable mobile homes perched precariously on top of Mount Gerizim overlooking the occupied Palestinian town of Nablus became the focus yesterday of one of the largest demonstrations seen in the West Bank against the Begin Government's expansionist settlement drive.

About 10,000 Israeli protesters made their way by coach car and on foot up the long winding road to the spot which is now known as "Upper Nablus" and is eventually intended to be a Jewish suburb which will house some 4,000 Israelis in new homes built strategically overlooking the 80,000 Nablus Arabs.

The Government's decision to reinforce the symbolism of the ceremony by staging it on the thirty-fifth anniversary of Israel's independence added to the protesters' anger. Many claimed it was a provocative ploy designed to give the impression of national consensus for a type of settlement that many Israelis fiercely oppose.

"I believe that we have as much right to be here as in Tel Aviv, but I do not think we are going to get peace if we deliberately choose to live right among the local Arabs," explained one demonstrator, uncomfortably wrapped in plastic sheeting against the swirling rain. "This settlement is a real obstacle to me or my children ever living without war."

Flapping in the wind yesterday on top of the 800 yard high

Samaritan mountaintop where the new Jewish suburb will be built were scores of posters castigating the ruling coalition for its action.

I travelled the last leg of the journey in a coach full of Gush Emunim supporters, many nursing the automatic weapons which most West Bank settlers carry as a matter of course. All seemed confident that their hawkish views represented the solid majority of Israeli voters.

"There will be no going back on the settlement now," said one student at a Yeshiva, or Jewish religious college. He added: "We should now be settling everywhere in the biblical land of Israel, even in the heart of Nablus itself."

In his headline independence day message Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, flatly rejected any suggestions that the resumption of talks on autonomy for the West Bank Arabs should be conditional on a freeze on Jewish settlements.

"This settlement is legal and derives from our inalienable right to the land of Israel," he said.

On Thursday, a special session of the Knesset has been summoned at the request of more than 30 members of the Opposition to debate the Government's controversial decision to hold the ceremony at "Upper Nablus" on a national holiday, traditionally designed to reflect the unifying quality of Israeli life rather than its divisions.

Pym says settlements are preventing peace

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

There could be no peace in the Middle East unless Israel stopped building settlements in its occupied territories, Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday.

He also urged the Begin Government to start a general withdrawal of forces from Lebanon by agreeing to remove its own troops.

Success on this issue was being seen as a test of American ability to undertake this kind of negotiating role in the Middle East. But no one seriously challenged the view that only the Americans could succeed.

He did not know whether President Reagan's peace initiative could be revived, he told the Foreign Press Association. But its prospects would be "immeasurably improved" by a decision to pull back Israeli forces.



Bomb blast in Beirut: A Lebanese policeman (left) standing guard, smoke billowing from the American Embassy and from burning cars, and (right) rescue vehicles.

How ambassador survived explosion

Beirut (AP and Reuters) - Mr Robert Dillon, the American Ambassador here, who was trapped in the rubble of an explosion that wrecked his embassy, said: "We have got to continue the peace effort."

He held reporters outside the embassy's shattered facade. "The negotiations will go ahead. It's a tragedy and you can imagine how sad and angered we all are but it doesn't change anything. The United States mission will continue."

Mr Dillon, who has been in Lebanon for more than two years, said he was standing up, a telephone receiver in one hand and a T-shirt in another, when the blast occurred shortly after 1pm (12pm BST).

"I was preparing to go out and join when all of a sudden my office collapsed," Mr Dillon said about his top floor office in the seven-storey embassy building. "I was unable to move. Someone picked the rubble off me and my secretary and deputy, Bob Hugh, pushed the rubble off me. I went out the window and down a few floors and then out," Mr Dillon said.

The ambassador, who said he had a few cuts, was rushed in a bulletproof limousine escorted by police to his residence in the suburbs, but returned to the embassy later in the afternoon to inspect the damage.

Mr Dillon, a Middle East specialist said both President Gemayel and Mr Shafik Wazzan, the Prime Minister, contacted him to express condolences.

"Both of them feel as I do that we can't let this stop our work. We've got to continue," Mr Dillon said. "I can't see why it should affect the peace process."

The Reagan Administration is sponsoring the ongoing talks between Israel and Lebanon on the withdrawal of more than 70,000 Foreign troops from this country of three million inhabitants.

Mr Philip Habib the US presidential envoy and his assistant, Mr Morris Draper, were in the presidential palace at the time of the explosion. Lebanese radio reports said Mr Habib's secretary was cut by flying glass.

Mr Dillon said he had "no idea" who was responsible for the attack, but said it appeared that it may have been a car bomb that "may have crashed through a barricade."

Mr Ryan Crocker, the embassy's First Secretary whose office at the side of the building looks over the sea, said: "The initial impression was not of noise - but a burst of light, pressure and objects flying through the air."

"We had a tremendous amount of glass but little physical damage. I realized I was alive, then began checking on my staff," Mr Crocker said.

When they tried to leave the building, they found the staircases blocked by fire and smoke. They had to climb down ladders, provided by neighbours, at the rear of the embassy.

Blast fails to deter Reagan

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

President Reagan declared yesterday that the car bomb explosion outside the American Embassy in Beirut would not deter the US from its goals of peace in the region.

In a special statement during a White House ceremony at which he presented prizes to Peace Corps volunteers, the President described the bombing as "a cowardly act."

He said he had instructed Mr Philip Habib and Mr Morris Draper, his two special envoys to the Middle East, to press ahead with negotiations for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

The President said the United States remained committed to the recovery by the Lebanese Government of full sovereignty throughout all its territory. "The people of Lebanon must be given the chance to resume their lives free from violence and without the presence of unauthorized foreign forces on their soil. And to this noble end I rededicate the efforts of the United States."

Shortly before the President made his statement he had received a telephone call from President Amin Gemayel in which the Lebanese leader expressed his regret for the incident.

Heroism and tears among the scenes of horror

Continued from page 1

which a team of young Lebanese Red Cross men and women were shovelling onto stretchers. One girl in blood-stained white overalls was moving through the still-smoking visa section with a bucket. No-one in that part of the building appeared to have survived, for the men and women, some of them stripped half-naked by the force of the explosion.

Infinitely more terrible was the scene we were to witness a few seconds later. For a slight breeze blew in from the sea and moved the curtains of smoke in front of the Embassy to reveal that seven entire storeys at the front of the building had pancaked down on top of each other and were now suspended perilously over the roadway.

And there, hanging upside down from a fourth floor, his legs hopelessly crushed by the concrete above him, hung the body of a middle-aged man in a brown suit, his arms hanging listlessly downwards, an ant-trail of blood running down the floors beneath him.

Perhaps such dreadful things inspire courage. For one of the French soldiers threw his beret to the ground and clambered into the burning Embassy. We saw him later, inching his way along a knife-edge of broken concrete 40 feet up the ruins and scrambling into a black hole in the pancaked floors to look for survivors.

Other people reacted differently. An American Marine

detachment arrived from the airport and started in horror at the devastation. "I don't believe it. I don't believe it," one of them kept shouting in anger.

Out in the Mediterranean, the helicopter carrier Guadalcanal steamed ponderously down to take up station parallel to the embassy, accompanied by its destroyer escort, a symbol of power made impotent by Lebanon's special kind of war.

Mr Morris Draper, one of President Reagan's Middle East negotiators, arrived at the embassy, shaking with emotion and almost in tears. "Where is my wife? Where is my wife?" he kept pleading until someone told him she had been taken,



Remitted: Mr Draper finds his wife unharmed

slightly hurt but alive, from the building.

The killers may have been trying to murder Mr Philip Habib, President Reagan's chief envoy, but he was, as usual in Beirut, at President Amin Gemayel's palace at Baabda. Mr Robert Dillon, the tall, white-haired Ambassador, had been in his office when the bomb exploded and was trapped in heaps of rubble when the floor collapsed.

But he was rescued by colleagues and was able to return to the Embassy four hours later and tell journalists that America had "got to continue" her peace efforts in the Middle East.

"The negotiations will go ahead," he said. "It's a tragedy and you can imagine how sad and angered we all are but it doesn't change anything - the US mission will continue."

Mr Dillon later suggested that the bomb might have been brought into the Embassy driveway by a motorist who could have crashed through the security barricade. However, the sad truth is that security was very lax around the American compound and Lebanese sentry boxes - including those beside the driveway - were often unmanned. The Lebanese Army probably realised this, for later in the afternoon they began to threaten foreign correspondents at the scene, tearing film out of cameras and - in one case - hitting a journalist in the face with a rifle butt. Another Lebanese soldier threatened to hit a US Marine press officer.

All-church summit plea by Runcie

Wellington - The Archbishop of Canterbury, who is visiting New Zealand, is seeking a peace summit of international religious leaders, our correspondent writes.

Dr Runcie said in Christchurch yesterday that this was one way the Anglican Church could work against the nuclear threat and he hoped that the Pope, the Patriarch of Moscow and representatives of the World Council of Churches would attend.

Tokyo 'believes spy's story'

Tokyo (Reuters) - The Japanese Government believed statements by Mr Stanislav Levchenko, a former Tokyo-based KGB agent, about alleged Japanese collaborators to be generally reliable, a government spokesman said yesterday.

Mr Levchenko, who defected to the United States in 1979, had identified by name eight Japanese collaborators and another 18 by KGB code names, publishers of the Japanese edition of *Readers Digest* disclosed last week.

Bandit jailed

Delhi (AFP) - Phoolan Devi, the 22-year-old bandit queen, whose exploits in the central Indian outback have become almost legendary here, has been sentenced to five years hard labour for illegal arms possession. She gave herself up in February. Several charges of manslaughter still face her.

Mafioso caught

Palermo (Reuters) - Paramilitary police burst into a luxurious seashore villa near here and arrested Giovanni Lo Verde, aged 44, one of Sicily's most wanted Mafia bosses.

He had been sought since escaping in a blaze of gunfire during a raid on a gang stronghold in October 1981.

Japanese strike

Tokyo (Reuters) - Dockworkers launched a 24-hour strike at Japan's ports to back demands for job security threatened by increasing containerization.

Walkouts are also planned at nine container berths for five days from today and three days from April 26.

More flogged

Karachi (Reuters) - Pakistani judges flogged 132 more Muslim militants for taking part in religious violence here.

Farm demand may bankrupt EEC

From Ian Murray, Luxembourg

EEC farmers this year have already asked the Community for 35 per cent more money than they did in the same period last year. This means that the Community could all but have exhausted its available money by December.

This sobering calculation was made in a paper issued yesterday by the European Commission as agriculture ministers began a meeting in Luxembourg to fix EEC farm price increases for the year ahead.

Despite the prospect that their claims could bankrupt the EEC, seven of the 10 ministers pressed for increases over and above the 4.2 per cent average being proposed by the Commission.

West Germany and The Netherlands, alone, were prepared to accept the proposals as they stood. Only Mr Peter Walker, the British minister, argued that the new estimates showed there had to be a reduction in the suggested increases.

The Commission admits in its paper that the calculations made when the farm price proposals were drawn up last December were wrong on two points. First, it estimated that the average increase in farming wages would be lower than the 9

per cent achieved. Second, it underestimated the quickening rate for increase in milk production, which still "shows no signs of flattening."

The effect of these miscalculations is that instead of needing a relatively modest £210m to fund their farm price proposals this year, the Commission now estimates they will need anything up to £1,200m - which is all the extra available money the Community is allowed to raise this year.

This means that agricultural spending is once again rising faster than the Community's ability to raise money. This trend runs counter to all the assurances that Britain has been seeking in its attempts to negotiate what it hopes will be a firmer level of EEC budget payments to the Community.

The new Commission estimates show the level of agricultural spending in the first five months of this year will be £9,600m which is £600m on the original estimate.

The agricultural ministers, with the vociferous exception of Mr Walker, seemed relatively unmoved by these figures. For his part he said it would now be "very difficult" to get an agreement during the current meeting, which is due to end tomorrow.

Spain will cut back on nuclear power plants

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Spain will reduce its commitment to nuclear power and possibly abandon the construction of some nuclear plants which are already being built, according to Señora Carmen Mestre, the Director-General of Energy.

Addressing a symposium at the Ministry of Industry and Energy, Señora Mestre emphasized the need to scale down investment, which was based on over-optimistic calculations of future energy needs. She also emphasized the desirability of waiting for the development of absolute guarantees of safety nuclear power stations.

However, informed sources indicated other compelling reasons for the Government's decision to scale down its nuclear power plans which Señora Mestre did not mention. They are both economic and political. In the first place, the current expansion of Spanish energy facilities was financed to a considerable extent with loans to power companies from

foreign banks, mostly in dollars. The depreciation of the value of the peseta means that the power companies have to repay in dollars the equivalent of nearly twice the amount of pesetas borrowed.

In addition, refinancing and high interest rates pose the threat of serious financial difficulties for the country's power companies unless the requirements contained in existing national energy plan are revised downward.

Sources pointed out that finance costs in some companies are now in the neighbourhood of 35 per cent, and a business failure of big power companies "could bring the whole economy tumbling down."

At the same time there is increasing political opposition to the use of nuclear power. This is reflected in work stoppages and, in some cases, deliberate destruction, as well as more rigorous safety inspections.

Running of America kept in the family

From Our Own Correspondent Washington

The Reagan Administration critics are seeking to find out how the children and other relatives of some senior Administration officials have got well-paid jobs with the Federal Government for which they appear to have no special qualifications.

Most have been taken on by the United States Information Agency, which is responsible for putting out information about American policy and culture overseas.

Since President Reagan came to office the agency has taken on at least 150 political appointees, many of whom have been given plum posts in London and Paris.

Among those who have benefited from the agency's liberal hiring policy are the sons and daughters of Mr William Clark, the National

Security adviser, Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, and Mr Alexander Haig, the former Secretary of State.

The agency is run by Mr Charles Wick, a former head-leader and producer of the film *Snow White and the Three Stooges*.

Senator Edward Zorinsky, a member of the Senate foreign relations committee, has written to Mr Wick demanding to know whether the appointments "violate the letter or the spirit of any anti-nepotism laws or regulations."

A spokesman for the agency insisted the appointees were all qualified for their positions.

As is the way with Washington, this mini-scandal has somewhat inevitably been dubbed "Kiddlegate."

Lippizaner chief blamed for deaths

Vienna (AP) - Two prominent veterinary surgeons have accused Herr Heinrich Lehrner, director of Austria's Lippizaner stud farm of responsibility for the deaths of 39 prized horses, saying he repeatedly ignored expert advice to inoculate the animals against a deadly epidemic.

Herr Lehrner rejected the accusation, saying that he had never heard a thing about the importance of the inoculations until yesterday and accused Professor Kurt Arbeiter and Professor Franz Buerki of Vienna's renowned Veterinary University, with publishing their critical comments as an act of revenge against him.

He implied in an interview that they were trying to cover up their own incorrect behaviour by criticizing him.

After a minor outbreak of herpes virus-induced rhinopneumonitis at Vienna's Spanish Riding School in 1979, Professor Buerki first wrote to Herr Lehrner "urgently" recommending inoculation at the farm to prevent the threatened expansion of the disease, the statement said.

"All warnings remained ignored" by Herr Lehrner and officials at the Agriculture Ministry, in charge of the farm, Herr Lehrner implied that the accusations were meant to divert attention from the fact that the professors had declined to visit the farm during the worst of the crisis, despite his express pleas.

Queensland worst for Aborigines

From Tony Daboudin, Melbourne

Results of research published in the latest issue of the *Medical Journal of Australia* reveal that the death rate from infectious diseases among Aborigines in large reserves in Queensland is 90 times higher than the state average.

The research, based on Queensland government data not normally made public, also showed that the death rate on the reserves from heart disease, violence and accidents was three times higher.

The Queensland health authorities originally made the semi-confidential figures available to defence counsel for an Aboriginal who pleaded guilty to, and was convicted of, the manslaughter of his common law wife. The information was used to prepare a sociological study of life on the reserve for the court.

Dr Paul Wilson, a sociologist, who is one of the authors of the report, said that the reserves with highest death rate were those run by the State Department of Aboriginal and Islander Advancement. The researchers study the mortality rate on Queensland's 14 largest reserves with a total population of over 11,000.

The researchers also found that the relatively high mortality rate did not necessarily diminish even where there were reasonably high standards of public hygiene such as sewerage and good water supply.

Army gets its way in Thai election

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

The general election in Thailand yesterday appears to have produced the result wanted by the Army, which was largely responsible for the election being called two months early.

Although many votes are still uncounted it appears likely that, as predicted, no party has won a majority, and consequently the next government will be another coalition.

Seven hours after counting began six different parties had won seats, indicating that the new Parliament, like the last,

would have a fragmented membership.

It is the type of assembly the Army had in mind when last month it forced the abandonment of a new electoral system designed to give the larger political parties a good chance of obtaining a workable majority at this election.

The results so far declared give nine seats to the Social Action Party, the largest in the former Parliament, 11 to the Democrats, six to the Chart Thai party, and smaller numbers to three other parties. Independents appeared to be

doing badly. There are 324 seats to be filled.

Sitting members were holding their seats in almost all these resses. The Army would see the emergence of a civilian government with a workable majority in Parliament as a threat.

Many national figures feared that such a result might have prompted the military to overthrow the government by force. One of those who said he "hoped and prayed" he would not win because of that danger, is Mr Kukrit Pramoj, a former Prime Minister and leader of the Social Action Party.

SALES SUCCESS

A fine George III mahogany breakfast secretaire bookcase by the Trotter family.
Sold by Phillips in Edinburgh in March for £18,000.

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FASHION by Suzy Menkes



Starring in the rain

LADIES AND GENTLEMAN.

I am proud and honoured to receive this Oscar from you tonight. It is the first time in 54 years of the Academy Awards that a Raincoat has been singled out by the Motion Picture Industry - even though it has featured heavily in the history of Hollywood. I think especially of those very wonderful performers Greta Garbo and Humphrey Bogart, both sadly no longer with us. I salute the style of that great lady Lauren Bacall. I should also like to honour the memory

of the legendary Marlene Dietrich in her man's trench coat and to remind you all of that successful long-running cinematic series *Sex Appeal in the Rain*, starring Sophia Loren getting wet.

A raincoat is only as good as its producers, and I share the glory of this Oscar with Aquascutum and Burberry who have given me so much support over the years. I was especially pleased to see the award for Best Colour Range go

to Aquascutum for its newly refurbished mackintosh department in Regent Street.

To my distributors, I also express my gratitude, especially to Harrods, who have included so many different styles, to Simpsons for elegance and variety, to Harvey Nichols for designer collections, and to Fenwick who do so much at popular prices for young people.

Finally, I should like to thank the one thing that has

made this award possible. The raincoat, as you know, is a British success story. And we in Britain have something back home that you in Los Angeles saw for the first time during the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II last month.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I accept this Oscar on behalf of the British Raincoat that has fallen continuously on my country for the past month, thus ensuring me a long successful run.



BEST ALL ROUND PERFORMER: The Classic Trench (right), starring Marlene Dietrich, Greta Garbo, Humphrey Bogart, Marilyn Monroe, Jeanne Moreau and the entire population of Japan. Produced in lightweight lined cotton, tan only, sizes 36-44in, £185 from B2 Department at Aquascutum, 100 Regent Street, London, W1. Felt hat by Bernona. Sheer tights from Elbeco. Silletto court shoes from Freemans Mail Order.

NOMINATIONS: Classic Burberry with distinctive check lining at £175. Marks & Spencer's double breasted raincoat with small check lining, in stone and light brown, £45. Daininac's trench from Fenwick, £57. Big nylon foldaway trench coat £18.99 from Flap, 125 Long Acre, Covent Garden, WC2.



BEST SUPPORTING ROLE: Black Gie (above), starring Lauren Bacall and Juliette Greco, shot mainly on location on the Left Bank in Paris, with brief flashes of shiny PVC in swinging London in the 1960s. Produced in rubberized cotton in black only, four basic styles, single and double breasted, sizes to order £65 from Weather Vain, 283 Sandycroft Road, Kew, Surrey. Perspex and leather waist-cincher £22.95 by Nancy Fisher from String Cooper. White circular skirt £24.99 by Strawberry Studio. White sweetheart sweater £28.95 from Fenwick.

NOMINATIONS: Original 1960s PVC from Camden Lock and Kensington Market. Sweet Charity's black plastic mini mac £19.50 from First Floor, Kensington Market, High Street, Kensington, W8, p & p £22.00. String Cooper's shiny grey three-quarter mac £38.99 from 94 New Bond Street. Millets' range of plastic and rubberized macs and jackets from £2.99.



BEST SEX APPEAL: The White Raincoat (far right), starring Sophia Loren, Gine Lollobrigida, all cinema journalists and Wells Corbett salesman. A sultry tale of passion in Italy in the 1950s, recently released. Produced by Michael Mortel with eyelid trim and showerproof leather collar £139 from Weathercoats department at Harrods, also in khaki and brown. Animal paw-print top £3.95 from Pacific, New Bond Street. Headscarf £2.95 from Fenwick. Gloves by Dent-Fowles.

NOMINATIONS: Feminella at Fenwick, £59 with stand or turn-down collar. Anne Marie Beretta's white plastic and twinning cape for Remsport, £127 from Harvey Nichols. Film-Fire's clean and simple styling from a wide range at Selfridges, Oxford Street.

FASHION EDITOR'S COMMENT

Are the TV companies pulling the woolies over our eyes? The only radical change that I can see over my children's shoulders in the morning, is that Nick Owen's business suit. Any other alterations to morning television are purely cosmetic. The fuss over Selma's poached egg eyes, Frank Bough's rumpled jumpers and Angela's headmistress hairstyle has been greeted by the Famous Five as signs of trivial media reaction and poor critical taste. I do not dispute so lightly the fact that the biggest star of breakfast time television has been the sweater. For who still believes that what you wear is not an important signal (for both sexes) of who you are, what group you identify with or which image you are aiming for?

The fashion catchphrase of the last decade has been that "anything goes", and it is true that the sartorial standards which equated clothes with status have been unspooled. But dress is still an identifiable badge of class, career, age, or even regional groupings, and in the current fashion anarchy, the desire to identify is stronger than ever.

The cult of Preppy clothes in America and the Sloane Ronger

affection of green wellies and hushies are used as secret weapons in a guerrilla war of class, in which the rules are changed as soon as the masses discover what the elite are wearing.

In Germany, the political fight between the Greens and the Christian Democrats is being acted out in costumes so comical they look like a caricature: long hair, beards and blue denim against sober suits, collared ties.

The Greenham Common women dress in a parody of protest style, although my anti-fashion sisters will not thank me for pointing to the wellies and clogs, the leg warmers and hand knits, the badge-decorated dungarees and the ubiquitous woolly hat. (It has become such a potent peace symbol that the local residents refuse to wear it lest they should be identified with the invaders).

There was an earlier peace style of duffels and corduroys, as worn by readers of the *New Statesman* and still worn by old statesmen like Michael Foot. The fashion exhibition at the Brighton Museum actually has the CND uniform of dark duffel coat and badge on display.

New fashion has become so fragmented that whatever your

cause you dress for it. Earth mothers and middle aged hippies still cling to floral prints and ethnic accessories (keltic shoulder bags, straw baskets, long woolly scarves and shawls). The unemployed are drawn to the smart suit, dad's badge of office life. The uniformed classes wear their authority off-duty with knife creases down their terylene slacks. Army wives identify in elbow-patched sweaters, a pastiche of the paras.

In this kaleidoscope of style, these is the know recognizes it when they see it. (Thus the Camden Palace follows the tradition of all fashionable nightspots by insisting on a certain standard of dress, although they are smart enough to make their own valuation and not get hoist by a collar and tie).

The only obvious mainstream movement of the last decade, has been away from formal clothes and towards sportswear (although I believe that this will now begin to go in reverse). Given that casual wear is now king, it was very unwise of TV-am to think that presenting a smart face to the waking world would endear them to the viewing public. So on with the sweaters - and on with the show.



Hepworths: after Next for women, a First for men

Can Terence Conran do a Next on Hepworths itself? The Next fashion chain sprang fully clothed - under the design inspiration of Conran - from the remains of 78 Kendalls stores 18 months ago when they were bought by Hepworths. Now Next has a £40m turnover, more than 100 branches and an image of dynamism in coordinating women's wear.

The slender Hepworths men's stores took up the challenge last week with a show that had everything from a camped-up film producer to a rag week student wearing nothing but a college scarf. (He was soon dressed from stock.)

More important, Hepworths in Regent Street, along with 150 of the 283 high street stores, has had a face-lift. A video film of a week in the life of a team of British workmen, showed us how a shop can be re-fitted at high speed with elegant grey-felt walls decorated with burgundy carriage lines (just coincidentally the Conran-designed colour scheme at Next).

Blouson jacket £24.99. Sweater and shorts both £9.99 from Hepworths. Photograph by HARRY KERR.

Terence Conran himself, wearing a pink tie and an enigmatic smile, told me that Next was the model for the new Hepworths, although things tend to move at a slower pace in the menswear business.

"The Hepworths image has been honest, solid and traditional," says Bob Russell, managing director of Hepworths (Retail) Ltd. "We have been more than a year planning its re-birth and taking a fresh look at men's clothes."

The new shops, says Mr Russell, are designed in colour scheme and lay-out to appeal to the female shopper and the coordination of the clothes is also aimed at the sharper fashion eye of wives and girlfriends. "We don't underestimate the importance of the woman who visits the store during the week and comes back at the weekend bringing her man."

Mr Russell speaks reverently of the "soft statement" wall panels showing coordinated outfits, with rails of clothes aimed at the 24 to 45 age group (the original target of Next, although their customers now tend to be younger).

The real change of image for Hepworths lies in the clothes, which are still fairly middle-of-the-road in style and colour but now concentrate more strongly on sportswear, with casual shirts, blouses and unstructured jackets edging out the formal suits.

Hepworths have been known for over a century for their suits. Now 50 per cent of the merchandise is in casual wear with every accessory from underpants to umbrellas on sale, alongside the more formal coats and raincoats.

But the real news, which is sending a frisson of fear through the rest of menswear retailing, is that Hepworths have launched a new own label brand of casual wear called First. Whatever Next?

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THE ARTS

Television
Fearful
crime

Burglary pays. Legitimate businesses may ponder tomorrow's uncertainties, but burglary booms, with nearly two break-ins a minute. Burglars can afford to be cocky about it: there is only one conviction for about every 90 burglaries.

Sir Robert Mark, former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, says the public fears burglary more than any other crime but is largely unaware of the situation. "There is a general, widespread and entirely mistaken conception that the police and courts are an adequate and effective deterrent to burglary. It is simply not true."

Granada's *World in Action* is showing two programmes, *Offence Against the Person*, to make us more aware. In the first, last night, Mr Stanley Bailey, Newcastle's Chief Constable, whose patch was visited to demonstrate Sir Robert's points, said that the worst feature of the boom was the fear. People did not go out for fear of being burgled.

In Tyneside, one house in four is burgled every other year. Police were shown in conscientious but implicitly vain investigation. A fingerprint man said he expected to be dusting around 20 houses on a normal Sunday. Victims mourned not just material losses but the feeling of violation which often affects nervous and physical health. An Oxford criminologist, Mr Michael Maguire, without underestimating the problem, said that the fear of the crime was often based on a wrong perspective.

Britain now has 140 voluntary groups trying to assist victims whose sense of security is shattered. And it is not just fat cats who get burgled: the poorer districts of the inner cities are the worst affected. Police are not convinced that the consequent boom in security systems does much to deter resolute burglars.

By no means all are professional in the traditional sense. Seventy per cent are under 21; 40 per cent under 17. Mr William Whitelaw appeared briefly to speak of the Home Office's publicity campaign, the largest ever, against the crime. Next week we are to hear of the changes in police tactics which are being considered. That should provide another good reason for staying in.

On BBC 2 *Horizon* showed an American-produced dramatized account of the official inquiry into the Three Mile Island nuclear power accident in 1979, somewhat technical but clear enough in its message: the operators could not tell what was happening; the manufacturers got it wrong; the government body, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, reacted with a whole set of wrong assumptions.

It will be 1985 before decontamination is complete. It will have cost \$1 billion, twice the original estimate. Despite inquiry and expense, the programme concluded that, unless the system governing nuclear power changes, more Three Mile Islands are inevitable. Altogether a chilling start to the week.

Dennis Hackett

The Hague School
Royal AcademyAlexander Mann
Fine Art SocietyWilliam Henry Yule
Pym's Gallery

The thing about art history is that, however much you know in theory, there are always gaps to be filled in by direct reference to the art that the history is supposed to be all about. And the missing pieces of the jigsaw puzzle frequently prove not quite to fit where and in the way that they are supposed to.

Which is where exhibitions like The Hague School, at the Royal Academy until July 10, come in. You might be forgiven a certain vagueness about even which century the artists in question belong to, so the show's subtitle obligingly fills in the necessary detail: "Dutch Masters of the Nineteenth Century". But, beyond that, who are they and what does their painting look like? Puzzling questions indeed, today, in 1983. But a century ago we would probably have had little difficulty in answering them.

For then the vogue for Holland was in full swing. Painters from all over the world flocked to Holland to paint the local sites and costumes and customs as Max Liebermann wrote in 1901, "Any young man of any energy made the pilgrimage to Holland, bringing back with him a wooden shoe, a white cap and a long clay pipe, the Dutch window with its little leaded lights became the fashion". And the fashion was initiated by the spectacular impact contemporary Dutch artists were making on the international art scene.

Then, names like Mauve, Israels and the brothers Maris would have been very familiar to British art lovers. Books were published in English about them and their work, and poking around in provincial art collections or the basement of the National Gallery will soon uncover excellent examples, probably hard by the paintings of lesser members of the Barbizon School who were in many respects their French equivalents. They painted mostly landscape and genre pictures — landscapes mirroring with infinite variation the grey skies and flat green pastures of Holland, interiors of humble but seldom abject peasant life.

The stylistic range was deliberately quiet and unassertive: the painters saw themselves principally as realists, showing life and landscape as they really were. And so successful were they, for their time, that the shock of the new in their work sent waves of excited response throughout Europe and even across the Atlantic.

Renewing acquaintance is quite a comfortable experience. You can see exactly where they come from and exactly where they lead. Three years ago an important show emphasized

A movement that stirred the world



this aspect, even in its title, *Mondrian and the Hague School*; it toured Manchester, Southampton, Birmingham and Norwich, but never came to London. For those who saw it, the implication was plain enough: the Hague School mattered because, improbably, senior artists in Mondrian's family belonged to it and he himself began his long pilgrimage to abstraction right there. In the present show we end up with half a dozen very early Mondrians — and it must be said that seldom can the beginnings of a great artist have been quite so unimpressive as these unimpressive dabs, with a noticeable sense of form only just tentatively emerging in what one imagines to be the latest. We are also reminded, for good measure, that Van Gogh's beginnings were very much in the heart of the Hague School.

But, to be worthwhile to more than a tiny minority of specialists, an exhibition has to do more than merely fill in a few dark areas of history. And here the present show triumphantly succeeds. Quite irrespective of where, if anywhere, their work led, these nineteenth-century Dutch painters are eminently worth rediscovering just on their own merits. They do not have the kind of immediate, dramatic impact which floors you as you enter the first gallery, but they exert a slow-growing but intense fascination as you look leisurely round. You can well appreciate why Mauve had such a high reputation in his own time as a landscape artist and recorder of peasant lives and labours; he paints farm animals with full sympathy and understanding, and has a special feeling for peasants bent under lowering skies, but also, as *Riders on the Beach* at Scheveningen demonstrates, he can respond with a more worldly sparkle when the occasion seems right. You can also begin to tell the

three Marises apart, and note particularly how Matthijs moved gradually away from realism towards a Symbolic style which rather recalls some Scottish contemporaries. You can make discoveries of enchanting individual pictures, like Roelofs' *The Rainbow*, with its stunning evocation of late sunshine after rain, or Gabriel's *Train in Landscape*, with its vivid creation of almost limitless space. And you can discover a source of continuing delight in the work of Weissenbruch, represented by 23 landscapes of such consistently high quality and such astonishing feeling for colour and bizarre but effective composition that one wonders why he is not better known, however deep the neglect into which the school in general has fallen. No doubt the Hague School will still not be to everybody's taste — but then what is? For those on the right wavelength the show will be a revelation indeed.

While we are in the business of rediscovery — and in very much the right period — there are two more shows of considerable interest on in London at the moment, devoted to a couple of the more thoroughly forgotten Scottish artists from the latter end of the nineteenth century. Alexander Mann (1853-1908) and William James Yule (1867-1900). And if you have never heard of either of them, it is even more understandable than a measure of vagueness about the Hague School, since both have been completely ignored since their deaths. Which is, in both cases, much too long.

Alexander Mann, whose work is showing at the Fine Art Society until May 6, lived longer and was more accomplished of the two, though also the more difficult to pin down as an artistic personality. He was born in Glasgow, studied in Paris and absorbed all the regular influences of the



A more worldly sparkle, on the right occasion, in *Mauve's Riders on the Beach at Scheveningen*; and detail from Yule's *Elise*, "Velasquez filtered through Whistler"

time, from Bastien-Lepage's crisp and chilly pictures of French peasant life to the proto-impressionism of the Hague School and the oriental leanings of Whistler and his group. He seems to have had private means, travelled a lot and, though he exhibited widely, never had to push his work in a fully professional fashion. Professional in his attitude to painting he decidedly was, however, and in whatever style he chose to paint, he seems to have achieved complete proficiency. There are in this show one or two dull pictures, but nothing which is not wonderfully accomplished, even when, in later days, he drifts rather alarmingly over into Symbolist fantasy. The connecting links between his various styles and phases are not very strong or evident, but an artist who can well justify the exhibition of 72 paintings at once without boring or satiating us does not deserve 80 years of total neglect.

William James Yule died at the age of 33, and was obviously far less formed as an artist than Mann. Perhaps for this very reason, he seems much more coherent and consistent, if never quite so showily effective. His work appears, from the

examples on view at Pym's Gallery in Motcomb Street until May 14, to hover, as far as the draughtsmanship is concerned, between the two poles of Whistler and Phil May: the many pencil and pen sketches show him to have been a fresh, precise and sometimes humorous observer of men and manners, with a cheeky feeling for the atmosphere of city streets. His paintings, naturally, favour Whistler rather more, as in the charming childhood portrait of *Elise*, which, as the catalogue nicely remarks, suggests Velasquez filtered through Whistler.

Yule spent time in Spain, and painted vividly there; he also had Glasgow longings on him to produce symbolic idylls, and the major work left unfinished at his death, *Girls Dancing in a Meadow*, though not very satisfactory in its present form, does suggest interesting lines of development. Yule remains a case of potential more marked than achievement. But there is no doubting the talent, or the pleasure to be derived, even at this distance in time, from his company.

John Russell Taylor

Theatre
Cynical musings

The death of Tennessee Williams leaves Sam Shepherd perhaps the leading active American playwright, since Arthur Miller and Edward Albee have for some years now rested on the laurels garnered by their earlier plays. Mr Shepherd's latest work, *Fool for Love*, unveiled by the Magic Theater in San Francisco, gives one pause to reflect upon the state of contemporary American drama, particularly in the West and Middle West.

This impressive production offers four accomplished actors almost perfectly cast, and Mr Shepherd has directed his play himself with a technical virtuosity no doubt rooted in his own considerable experience as an actor. Andy Stacklin has designed a cheap, bare western motel room unwelcoming enough to curdle the blood, and Ardrys L. Golden has provided costumes so naturalistic that the wearers appear to have had them on for weeks or even months.

The electric tension between May and Eddie (Kathy Baker and Ed Harris, both of them outstanding, at times even brilliant) evokes two horse-shoe magnets: they can attract irresistibly or, with poles reversed, irresistibly repel. They refer to a sexual bond of some years' standing, but over that relationship hangs an evident threatening, perhaps horrible shadow. *Love's Siblings*, by Mr Shepherd tantalizes us. Downstage left, a repulsive old man (Will Marchetti) guzzles straight cheap bourbon, acting as a sort of Far-West Greek chorus. The arrival of May's date Martin (Dennis Ludlow) provides the fuse which finally ignites the explosion.

Mr Shepherd's sure sense of theatricality, to judge by this play, considerably exceeds his intellectual and poetic capability for transmitting such sombre material into art. He has an exceptional, finely attuned ear, but he fails to make May and Eddie, both of them obviously wretchedly unhappy,

lost souls — worth our really caring about. One comes away not purged by an inevitable conflict and confrontation, with almost truly tragic overtones, but rather musing as to the degree of cynicism governing Mr Shepherd's choice of sensational material.

Other recent theatrical events hereabouts have offered almost an embarrassment of choice, much of it outstanding by any standards. Expenditure drives. A startlingly good "performance work" by a remarkable young black writer, Ellen Sebastian, entitled *Your Place is no Longer with Us*, moves a few dozen spectators, along with the small cast, from room to room, upstairs and downstairs, in the house where the drama unfolds. The San Francisco Mime Troupe, which has won important prizes here and abroad for its slashing, left-wing street theatre, has surprised us with a powerful indoor production of the Lope de Vega classic *The Uprising at Fuente Ovejuna*. Londoners will have occasion this summer, at the international drama festival, to sample a multi-media work just unveiled here under the title *are* — an extraordinary, virtually indescribable 90 minutes of mime, projections, speech and song, with a musical score ranging between rock and minimalist.

The repertory company founded by and named after Tyrone Guthrie, in Minneapolis, recently had to capitulate to harsh economic reality and abandon the repertory system — a body-blow to decentralized theatre in this country — but both San Francisco and Berkeley continue to have much better. The American Conservatory Theatre's repertory season has thus far given us outstanding productions of *The Chalk Garden*, *Uncle Vanya* and *Look, and the Berkeley Repertory Company* has especially distinguished itself with the Brecht-Weill *Happy End* and *The Glass Menagerie*.

Paul Moor

Recital

Fou Ts'ong

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Faced with the need to separate the funeral march movement in Chopin's 8 flat minor Sonata, Op. 35, from the ceremonial associations that nowadays cling to it, Fou Ts'ong made sure that the character of the other movements related closely to it in his solo programme on Sunday. He gave grandeur to the sonata's opening movement, perhaps with the help of a few more spread chords than were absolutely good for it, and communicated a fine sense of fancy in the Scherzo.

The march itself was adorned with sufficient weight to ensure that it retained its central focus as the source of the poetic ideas in the previous two movements, and the consolatory trio section was played with a deliberate and affecting simplicity. If this indeed was Chopin's visionary response to the idea of death, the performance indicated that it could be contemplated with dignity, the sonata's brief and enigmatic

finale then becoming a bold dispelling of the vision.

The sonata was preceded by the first book of Debussy's *Etudes*, which were dedicated to Chopin and in which the pianist demonstrated his acute sense of harmonic character, especially in the studies involving fourths and sixths. His use of the sustaining pedal clouded the musical texture at times, but the agility of the fingering and consistent brilliance of technique in realizing the essential purpose of each study was much to be appreciated.

Earlier in the programme the pianist seemed to lose heart before the end of Schubert's A minor Sonata, D845. It began strongly, with significant pauses helping to point the contrast of expression in the opening movement and in the following theme and variations. The energetic Scherzo was not entirely spotless, however, and whether or not this upset him, his approach to the finale was somewhat wild and he allowed it to grow more erratic towards the end.

Noël Goodwin

Concert

Philharmonia /
Haitink
Festival Hall/Radio 3

I am sure we have not heard the last of Brahms's *German Requiem* in this the 150th anniversary year of his birth, but it will be hard for anyone else to match the fullness and abundance of Sunday night's performance under Bernard Haitink. Here was the piece pulled out of comfortable Protestant gloom and made to sit up. But it was not an unsuitably operatic performance; rather the effect was of a seven-movement symphony, with a feeling for large-scale structure as unerring as was shown before the interval in Haydn's "Oxford" Symphony.

It seemed, too, that Mr Haitink was merely providing the opportunity for the work to say as much as it can as reflectively as possible, though reflection would indicate what care he, the Philharmonia and the Philharmonia Chorus had put into tiny details of newly gauged sonority, into building slow crescendos like great sturdy waves, and above all into reconsidering the phrasing so that answer did not come too soon upon question. It was indeed an intelligent as well as a moving performance.

Among the many satisfying surprises was the awesomely bare sound at the bottom of the orchestra, not sweetened in the usual way (the choir, though, made a rare falter each time Brahms asked them to step into the abyss of bottom F). I liked, too, Mr Haitink's brisk, sunny walk through the middle and least happy movement, and the way he managed to trump the Last Trump.

After a ferocious climax of alarm, the choir sounding their staccato-like elastic snaps, the ensuing fugue could have been a lapse into academicism, but instead it brought a lift into a different kind of energy expenditure, the choir now nobly splendid. They could also breathe human significance in a musical stage whisper.

The baritone soloist was Thomas Allen, who was singing with magnificent art and authority in the third movement when a frog jumped into his throat. He came back with full force later. Meanwhile, Margaret Marshall had made the soprano solo into a young, fresh song, appearing not as a sympathetic angel, which would have been inappropriate in this performance, but as an untamed spirit of regeneration.

Paul Griffiths

Opera

Long overdue for revival

La Gioconda
Barbican

Where to see Ponchielli's *La Gioconda* nowadays with the international cast it deserves? The Met in New York, although that house had its well-publicized troubles with the opera early on in the season just ended; San Francisco, as television has shown us; the Verona Arena, quite frequently. But London opera houses have shied away from Ponchielli's masterpiece for well over half a century. After Sunday's concert performance, which drew a full and cheering house to the Barbican, this ostracism might be reconsidered. It does not, after all, require too bold a management to measure up to the vocal and scenic demands of *La Gioconda*; if the National can create virtually the whole city of Bath for *The Rivals* then why be afraid of Ponchielli's far from sleepy Venetian lagoon?

Sunday's cast contained a trio of the biggest voices in the world, capable of sounding of filling not just the Concert Hall but the whole of the Barbican Centre. They were those of Ghena Dimitrova, Plácido Domingo and Piero Cappuccilli. The qualities of Mice Dimitrova have already been reported on this page from Berlin and in this, her London debut, she proved that although the dramatic soprano is an endangered species it is certainly not yet an extinct breed. She had fire in her voice, stamina and a magnificent lower register. In the last act Enzo calls *La Gioconda* a furious hyena ("furibonda iena") and with many an angry gesture from Ghena Dimitrova, no one would question the description. Yet a quarter of an hour later she was ready to tackle a series of almost Donizettian runs before *La Gioconda* thrusts a



Ghena Dimitrova: a Gioconda with all the passions

dagger into her heart. Occasionally there is a sour note, rather more often a stock gesture, but this was a *Gioconda* with all the passions Ponchielli demanded. Enzo must be one of the few major nineteenth-century Italian roles Plácido Domingo has yet to record. Presumably someone is now considering plugging that gap. Domingo still has the ability to raise the temperature of the house the moment he walks on to the platform. For half of Act I the conductor, Anton Guadagno, had appeared on rather remote terms with the LSO, and the LSO themselves on equally remote terms with Italian opera. Domingo changed all that.

"Cielo e mar!" pressed his technique harder than it might have done a couple of years ago, especially the dreamy opening, but Domingo at half stretch is preferable to other contemporary tenors at full stretch. Ponchielli's librettist, Tobia Gorrio (aka Arrigo Boito) did not put much flesh on Enzo, particularly at the close where he sails off with his lover to leave *La Gioconda* with her knife, but Domingo never allows him to become a Pinkerton-style cad. Piero Cappuccilli, who almost a quarter of a century ago recorded the spy Barabba with Calles, now has more of an ambassadorial than conspiratorial air. His baritone, though, still has extraordinary resonance. Cappuccilli may be happier on the west coast of Italy as Simon Boccanegra, Doge of Genoa, than over on the Adriatic, and Bernabe's *barcarolle* in Act II lacked something in lift. But the voice is rock solid: no wrong notes from Cappuccilli.

In the face of the strength and experience of this trio the rest of the cast sounded a little pallid. Barbara Conrad (Laura) had a sturdy mezzo and flashes of temperament, especially in her duet with *La Gioconda*, but she lacks finesse. The same goes for the bass Rodney Macaron (Alvise): plenty of volume but an indifference to the text. Elizabeth Bainbridge's *La Cies* was understated.

Anton Guadagno, after his lacklustre start, really got the LSO moving, also his chorus (the Brighton Festival). There was no great subtlety, and to pause at the end of the "Dance of the Hours" was pure self-indulgence. But probably indulgence is not a quality that comes amiss in *La Gioconda*. Now which opera house will indulge first?

John Higgins

Sheridan Morley meets Richard O'Callaghan (below), who opens as Feste in *Twelfth Night* at Stratford tomorrow

The deep end of repertoire

"I was a bit greedy: I thought, if I was going to Stratford for the first time, I'd like to be in everything possible", accordingly Richard O'Callaghan will be spending this Warwickshire summer as Feste in *Twelfth Night*, Crammer in *Henry VIII*, one of the Dromios in *Comedy of Errors* and Lucio in *Measure for Measure*. In fact the only main-stage Shakespeare he will not be found in is *Julius Caesar*.

"This is my first time in a repertoire company, and I thought I'd like to go in at the deep end. I was only ever once with the RSC before, and that was for a Warehouse Row of *TV Times*, then I joined the National, but again only for one play — the West End transfer of *Amadeus*. But mother was at Stratford for the 1976 season and she said it was really very nice." Mother is Pat Hayes, indomitable survivor of a thousand television situation comedies and also one of the finest if most underrated dramatic actresses in the business.

"I suppose acting does run in the family, though it took me a long time to come to terms with that. I'm now 43 but I've only been in the business 17 years, and I've never until now even begun to think of myself as a Shakespearean. A lot of the people I was at LAMDA with in the mid-1960s went straight off to the RSC and carried spears for two years and got so depressed at their lack of progress that they then left the theatre altogether. Perhaps that's why I've left it for so long before trying my classical luck."

"My father was Valentine Brooks, who had quite a starry career in the mid-1930s, and I had two sisters, but my parents split up when I was seven. By that time my father had given up acting and become an announcer on Radio Luxembourg; he and my mother had



left all their possessions there and come home for a holiday when war broke out, so they were left with nothing, and my mother then brought us up on what she could make playing little boys in radio and doing whatever else came along.

"We all joined the Interval Club in Dean Street, which was for Catholic actors, and I did a lot of amateur work there, but mother said I'd be daft to try and act for a career so I went off and tried being a farmer for ten shillings a week. That was horrible, so then I became a used-car salesman in a garage in South London, only I felt so guilty every time I sold a car that I had to give that up too. Then I went to work in Selfridges, and finally I scraped into LAMDA, where I was one of the class clowns, a vaguely likable sort of misanthrope and no more than that until in my second year a marvellous director called Adrian Brine came along and did *The Hostage*, and suddenly it all began to make sense and I knew that I could be an actor after all. Nobody was more surprised than myself, unless you count the rest of the staff at LAMDA."

"From that I got straight into the Royal Court, playing in *Spring Awakening*, only there

already was an actor called Richard Brooks so that was when I went back to my first ancestors and became an O'Callaghan like my grandfather's people.

"Since then I've been lucky enough to get a lot of interesting work (*Butley*, *Bofors Gun*, *Three Months Gone*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern*) in among all the television, and because I've never had any children I've never really had to worry too much about money. There was one terrible time about twelve years ago when I had eight months out, but since then I've worked pretty consistently. In television I think I'm now a star, in the theatre I'm still a good second lead for things like *Butley* and *Amadeus*.

"Mind you this season will not be my first Shakespeare: I was in the Alex Guinness, Simone Signoret, *Machbeth* at the Court in 1966, which someone was unkind enough to call 'Aimez-Vous Glamis?' Signoret could have been breathtaking, but she got terrified by the language and somehow her confidence never came through. The critics were totally destructive but I thought she was a wonderful, kind lady. It was, though, a very unhappy company and we were working in a set that was like a sandpapered cardboard carton, so that didn't help. Also nobody really gave her the go-ahead to take off so she just never did. By the end of the gloom that hung over that *Machbeth* was so terrible I refused ever to do the play again, even when the Young Vic offered me a tour of Mexico with it."

"But the joy of Stratford this summer is the range of the work: I suppose Feste might be obvious casting for me, but Crammer certainly is not and I think I can manage that if it could be very exciting."

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SPECTRUM

Early in 1940, under threat of invasion, Churchill turned his thoughts to three strategically vital Irish ports which had been ceded to Dublin only two years earlier. In an extract from his new book, Robert Fisk reveals Churchill's offer of a united Ireland, and how it was rejected

Getting the Irish out of neutral

In the emotional shock of June 1940, Winston Churchill tried to withstand the effects of the European debacle with visions of defiance and generosity. When France was collapsing under the German advance, he searched for some epic device with which to rally his broken ally; and on June 16, he offered France common citizenship with Britain, urging the French government to proclaim the "indissoluble union" of the two countries. British and French would become citizens of the same nation, protected by a joint defence organization.

It was an audacious gesture, the ramifications of which were scarcely considered by the French, who, in any case, promptly turned it down. But it illustrated the extravagant way in which Churchill's mind was moving at that traumatic period. It was quite in keeping that he should, on June 21, dispatch Malcolm MacDonald to Ireland to seek a new ally with offers which also transcended the bonds of national loyalty.

MacDonald was Minister of Health in Churchill's coalition government but he was also the minister who, with Chamberlain, had been most closely involved in handing back the Royal Navy's Irish treaty ports shortly before the Second World War. Now, with the German Army on the Channel coast, he was being sent back to Ireland to persuade Eire's Prime Minister, Eamon de Valera, to lend the Irish ports back to the Navy. In return he was to make a tentative offer of Irish unity.

It was to be the beginning of an historic dialogue between the British and Irish Governments that held out, in however fragile a form, the possibility of a final British withdrawal from Ireland after hundreds of years of repression and settlement. Had these discussions reached fruition, the history of Britain and Ireland in the second half of the twentieth century would have been changed irrevocably. MacDonald met de Valera in his sparsely-furnished Dublin office and every word of MacDonald's initial and subsequent suggestions for the unity of Ireland - of such dark significance today - was underlined in his typewritten official report to the War Cabinet. His first alternative was:

"That there should be a declaration of a United Ireland in principle; the constitutional and other practical details of the Union to be worked out in due course; Ulster to remain a belligerent, Eire to remain neutral at any rate for the time being; if both parties desired it, a Joint Defence Council to be set up at once; at the same time, in order to secure Eire's neutrality against violation by Germany, British Naval ships to be allowed into Eire ports, British troops and aeroplanes to be stationed at certain agreed points in the territory, the British Government to provide additional equipment for Eire's forces, and the Eire Government to take effective action against the Fifth Column."

De Valera rejected the suggestion. His people, he said, would regard the admission of British forces before a German invasion as an abandonment of strict neutrality, and national unity in the face of the German threat would be broken. There would be "unfortunate skirmishes" between the Irish and the British. De Valera then proposed:

"That Eire should be merged in a United Ireland which should at once become neutral; its neutrality to be guaranteed by Great Britain and the United States of America; since Britain was a belligerent, its Military and Naval forces should not take any active part in guaranteeing that neutrality, but American ships should come into the Irish ports, and perhaps American troops into Ireland, to effect this guarantee."

De Valera thought that some of his colleagues might be critical of this proposal - the possibility that American ships and troops could protect Ireland's neutrality was his own idea - but that the only way in which mutual difficulties could be overcome would be to establish a neutral United Ireland.

MacDonald thought this "entirely impracticable". There was, he said, no prospect that the people of Ulster would agree to desert Great Britain at the moment when her situation was more perilous than it had been for a century. The majority of the people in Northern Ireland would feel "deeply incensed" and the new state would be launched in the worst possible circumstances. Britain could not now contemplate a neutral Ulster: vital war production was being carried on there. MacDonald then threw out one more suggestion:

"That there should be a declaration of a United Ireland in principle, the practical details of the union to be worked out in due course; this United Ireland to become at once a belligerent on the side of the Allies."

De Valera now seemed more interested. MacDonald wrote in his report to London that "he answered that if there were not only a declaration of a United Ireland in principle, but

also, agreement upon its constitution, then the Government of Eire might agree to enter the war at once... but the constitution of a United Ireland would have to be fixed first."

MacDonald's discussions had lasted two days and the British Government considered the results on June 25. Chamberlain presented the Cabinet with a memorandum summarizing the talks and taking up MacDonald's hint that the Irish Government might be "considerably influenced" by a promise of military equipment. Chamberlain consulted the Chiefs of Staff, who drew up a list of arms that could be given to Eire. He also listed the three tentative proposals that MacDonald had discussed in Dublin, commenting that Sir John Maffey, the British representative in Eire, believed that the third of these - a British declaration of a United Ireland in principle and the immediate entry into the war of the new state - might yet sway the Irish Cabinet.

Chamberlain then proposed that MacDonald should return to Dublin with a formal plan for the unification of Ireland and the entry of Eire into the war on the Allied side. It was the first substantive offer of a United Ireland to be sent to de Valera, and the British Government promised that it would "at once seek to obtain the assent... of the Government of Northern Ireland" if the plan was acceptable to the Irish Cabinet. There were six clauses:

1. A declaration to be issued by the United Kingdom Government forthwith accepting the principle of a United Ireland.

2. A joint body including representatives of the Government of Eire and the Government of Northern Ireland to be set up at once to work out the constitutional and other details of the Union of Ireland. The United Kingdom Government to give such assistance towards the work of this body as might be desired.

3. A Joint Defence Council representing Eire and Northern Ireland to be set up immediately.

4. Eire to enter the war on the side of the United Kingdom and her allies forthwith, and, for the purposes of the Defence of Eire, the government of Eire to invite British Naval vessels to have the use of ports in Eire and British troops and aeroplanes to be stationed in such positions in Eire as may be agreed between the two Governments.

5. The Government of Eire to intern all German and Italian aliens in the country and to take any further steps necessary to suppress Fifth Column activities.

6. The United Kingdom Government to provide military equipment at once to the Government of Eire.

The decisive condition attached to this document, of course, was the acceptance of the plan - the "assent" as Chamberlain put it in his legalistic way - by Lord Craigavon's Northern Ireland Cabinet in Belfast. There can be little doubt that Chamberlain

intended to put considerable pressure upon the elderly Craigavon if he opposed the scheme. "I do not believe," Chamberlain told the British Cabinet in disingenuous fashion, "that the Ulster Government would refuse to play their part in bringing about so favourable a development."

In Dublin, MacDonald presented the British Government's offer of Irish unity to de Valera, reading the text aloud because de Valera's eyesight was so bad that he could decipher the document only with great difficulty. MacDonald argued that the declaration, which would already have received the agreement of the Northern Ireland Government, would settle the issue of unity. "It would be most dishonourable," he said, "if that declaration of policy were broken afterwards. It was unthinkable that the promise should be broken."

De Valera was still deterred by the prospect of entering the war, so

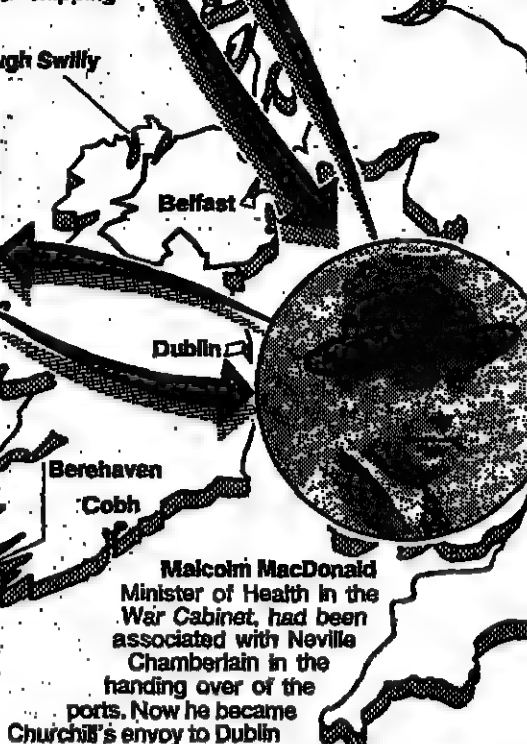
Lord Craigavon the Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, told the Stormont: "We are closing the gates, as our ancestors did at Derry"



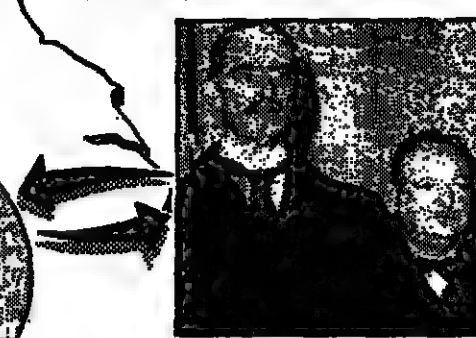
The Treaty ports, handed back to the Eire Government in 1938 after prolonged negotiations, were seen as vital locations for anti-submarine units in the protection of British shipping



Eamon de Valera, the Taoiseach of Eire, was in favour of the unification plan so long as the United Ireland would immediately declare its neutrality



Winston Churchill had always resisted the release of the Treaty ports. On becoming Prime Minister in May, 1940, he immediately opened negotiations with de Valera



Malcolm MacDonald, Minister of Health in the War Cabinet, had been associated with Neville Chamberlain in the handing over of the ports. Now he became Churchill's envoy to Dublin

tative of Eire and Northern Ireland to be set up immediately.

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Nothing could have equalled the sense of betrayal Craigavon felt... he fired back a proud, explosive message

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May 29 British evacuation of Dunkirk

June 3 Admiralty Invasion Warning Sub-Committee hears rumours of German plans to invade Ireland

June 12 Chamberlain invites de Valera and Craigavon to a meeting in London

June 14 Both refuse

June 17 MacDonald visits Dublin to discuss Irish neutrality with de Valera

June 21 MacDonald returns to Dublin with an informal suggestion of Irish union

June 25 War Cabinet discusses de Valera's rejection

June 26 MacDonald returns to de Valera with a formal offer in six clauses; Chamberlain informs Craigavon of the negotiations

June 27 MacDonald meets Irish Cabinet; Craigavon sends cypher telegram accusing Chamberlain of treachery

June 28 Chamberlain writes to de Valera incorporating revised proposals

June 29 Craigavon cables suggestion of immediate naval occupation of Eire ports and accuses de Valera of blackmail

July 5 De Valera sends envoy to London with formal rejection

the strength of his 'Fifth Column'. My friend suggested that if he would declare himself as willing to come in with Britain, I would be glad to meet him anywhere at any time to talk over mutual civil defence provided no 'constitutional' questions were touched upon. Mr de Valera's answer was: "Quite impossible."

Craigavon did not name his informant, and would reveal only that he was an "absolutely reliable source". It was a sad attempt to counterbalance the reports which Craigavon must have known MacDonald was sending back to Chamberlain from Dublin, and the letter - with its fulsome desire to be of assistance and its gloss of truth about de Valera - received no reply.

Nothing, however, could have equalled the sense of betrayal that Craigavon felt when he received details from Chamberlain of the Dublin negotiations. He fired back a cypher telegram to London, a proud, imperious, explosive message of a kind that no Northern Ireland minister had ever before sent to the Imperial Government:

"Am profoundly shocked and disgusted by your letter making suggestions so far reaching behind my back and without any pre-consultation with me. To such treachery to loyal Ulster I will never be a party."

Churchill's War Cabinet, however, had moved forward in their professed commitments to Irish unity. The declaration accepting the principle of a United Ireland was now strengthened by an additional clause specifying that "this declaration would take the form of a solemn undertaking that the Union is to become at an early date an accomplished fact from which there shall be no turning back."

For Britain, the surrender of Northern Ireland to Eire might be a necessary sacrifice to secure her own safety - to reinvest for a few years that 500-mile semi-circle of Naval defence - and it was one which the British Government could propose in all seriousness in the summer of 1940. If Northern Ireland was a "loyal province" to Churchill, it could appear to other British ministers as a 19-year-old anachronism whose people would not "refuse to play their part" in the unity of Ireland if this was in Britain's best interest.

In Northern Ireland itself, such considerations were unacceptable. Protestants who professed loyalty to the United Kingdom were in no mind to demonstrate their faithfulness by dismantling their Government. Craigavon's ministers had directed their energies towards the survival of their province; to seek its demise with the help of another nation was, therefore, not just an act of infidelity on Britain's part, but of "treachery" as well.

It must have been almost a relief for Chamberlain when, on July 5, he received de Valera's curt and formal rejection of Britain's offer of Irish unity. The amended proposals for the Union of Ireland had been considered by the Irish Government, wrote de Valera, but:

"The plan would commit us definitely to an immediate abandonment of our neutrality. On the other hand, it gives no guarantee that in the end we would have a United Ireland, unless indeed concessions were made to Lord Craigavon opposed to the sentiments and aspirations of the great majority of the Irish people. Our present constitution represents the limit to which we believe our people are prepared to go to meet the sentiments of the Northern Unionists, but, on the plan proposed, Lord Craigavon and his colleagues could at any stage render the whole project nugatory and prevent the desired unification by demanding concessions to which the majority of the people could not agree."

The occasion was never to occur again. Within six months, both Craigavon and Chamberlain would be dead. MacDonald, thinking that "perhaps Churchill wanted to get rid of me", was dispatched to Canada High Commissioner. Henceforth, Churchill and de Valera would face each other without intermediaries. The border - the scar of partition for those who denied its legality - would remain, and the world war would now give it a new and enduring permanence that would permit it, 30 years later, to burst upon Craigavon's descendants with a virulence of which neither Churchill nor de Valera could ever have conceived.

Tomorrow: How Hitler planned Operation Green, the invasion of Ireland

Galtieri writes: Britain's mistake in Gibraltar

As you must know by now, General Leopoldo Galtieri, who appears regularly in this column as our guest problem adviser, has been punished for writing for *Moreover* by a sentence of detention meted out to him by the military authorities in Argentina. We salute his courage. Here is a man who is prepared to stand up for his beliefs as readily as Lech Walesa or Mahatma Gandhi.

The bravery of the man is further shown by the fact that when we smuggled your letters in to him inside one of his medals cases, he smuggled his replies out again with the defiant words: "Publish and be damned, but send me the money quick. Here then, are his latest words, actually from inside an Argentine prison."

General, what's it like in prison? And how does it feel to be one of the "forgotten"? Bit of an irony, isn't it? - D. F. of Camden.

General Galtieri writes: My friend, I too can see the humorous side of things. One day the head of my country, the next in prison. Usually it is the other way round. But I have no complaints. My warders treat me well - I am after all superior to them all in rank and they jump to it when I give an order. I am allowed to receive visitors, go for horse rides, play a little golf - it is not so bad being in prison. And above all I am getting time to write my book.

I do not see really what Jakob Timmerman, or whatever his name was, had to complain about. There was a trouble-maker. We let him out of jail, he writes a book, he gets the Nobel Peace Prize, and now he is making trouble in Israel. I have

no doubt he will end up in prison there as well, and then accuse Mr Begin of being anti-Semitic.

Mark you, his being in prison must have helped his sales, and who knows, perhaps it will help me too. I will soon be bringing out my *Moreover Book of Advice*, and then - the Nobel Prize? Let us see.

I don't know if you get the papers in prison, but there's been a bit of a fuss about the British fleet visiting Gibraltar. You know, it is going to be another Falklands situation, and all that. What do you think? A. W. of Ealing.

General Galtieri writes: What do I think? I think your Foreign Office are being very stupid, and the Spanish very hypocritical.

cal. Spain has two possessions on the coast of Africa just like Gibraltar. They are called Ceuta and Melilla. For many years the Moroccans have been clamouring for their return, but the Spaniards say no - we will die rather than give them up! Why does your Foreign Office not say: we will give Gib back when you hand over Ceuta and Melilla?

We have all got something that somebody else wants. You have the Malvinas, for instance. Why do we not just swap them all around?

Yes, but what have you got to swap? - J. B. of London.

General Galtieri writes: Shergar. How's that again? - J. B. of London.

General Galtieri writes: Yes, Shergar has been safe and well in Argentina for several weeks; and is much enjoying the introduction to polo. We have, of course, written to your Foreign Office suggesting the exchange of Shergar with the Malvinas, but the Argentine Post Office is not what it was. Leave it another couple of weeks.

Have you read about the Cornard Countess and the grieving families on board? I wonder if you feel remorse at all - D. N. of Gooles.

General Galtieri writes: Remorse, no. Sympathy, yes. Of course I am sympathetic to any family who lost a man in the Malvinas. After all, I lost a thousand.

I don't know if you read about Peter Sutcliffe, the so-called Yorkshire Ripper, being at

tacked in prison. Apparently he got done over badly. I just thought you ought to know, look out yourself in case you got duffed up. - B. G. of Leeds.

General Galtieri writes: Thank you for the warning, but I think I have the respect of the inmates here. After all, Sutcliffe only killed a dozen people; I killed over a thousand.

Bit of a sour note to end on there, General. Haven't you got a merry quip to round things off with, have you? - M. E. of Nottingham Hill.

General Galtieri writes: There is quite a good story about Mrs Thatcher which is very popular with the Argentine army at the moment, but it is perhaps not suitable for a family newspaper. Meanwhile, I must go; it is our television hour and tonight it is Benny Hill, whom I find extremely dull.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 41)

ACROSS	1 Pebbles (6)	2 Wasteful (4)	3 French school (5)	4 Clap (7)	5 Blended art (8)	6 Jungle king (4)	7 Bellowed instrument (9)	8 Bear measure (4)	9 West End street (4)	10 Priest's garment (7)	11 Salaries (5)	12 Strong wind (4)	13 Double bicycle (6)
DOWN	1 Speed contests (5)	2 Content for (3)	3 Craniofary (13)	4 Shed tears (4)	5 Lino up again (7)	6 Abscond with lover (5)	7 Unpleasantly damp (4)	8 Tickle (4)	9 Meek (5)	10 Water plants (5)	11 Memory loss (7)	12 Bishop of Rome (4)	13 Pale (3)

SOLUTION TO No 40
ACROSS: 1 Adversities 2 Lugworm 3 Slack 4 Ewe 5 Visa 6 Silt 7 Really 8 Duck 9 With 10 Eerie 11 Lamb 12 Barn 13 Deb 14 Enka 15 Amphis 16 Unfurling 17 DOWNS: 1 Doves 2 Snow 3 Enow 4 Time 5 Rise 6 Swahili 7 Slave driver 8 Steadiness 9 Wall 10 Raffle 11 Rampion 12 Web 13 Axial 14 Dams 15 Bull 16 Aztec

THE TIMES DIARY

Joining forces

Alan Lee Williams, director-general of the English-Speaking Union, is to take leave when the general election comes to work as *chef de cabinet* for Dr David Owen. Williams, who lost his seat as Labour MP for Hornchurch in 1979, was closer in Parliament to Denis Healey - whose parliamentary private secretary he was for a time - than to Owen though he and Owen reviewed each other's books on defence matters in mutually ecstatic terms before joining forces in the *Manifesto Group*. Williams says he has no immediate ambition to return to the hustings on his own account, though he does not rule it out "eventually".

Out of favour

Some indication of the state of preparedness for a general election at the various party headquarters may be drawn from John Brennan's experience trying to get party rosettes to illustrate the cover of his forthcoming book, *The Political Pound*. The Tories had plenty in stock, 90p each. The Liberals would have to order specially; only 35p each but 25 minimum. The SDP had none, did not know when they would be getting them, or how much they would cost. Labour did not know if they would be having any, but suggested, "Try Arsenal football ground. Their colours are the same."

Wendy Perotti writes from Katmandu to tell me that the Mount Annapurna Hotel in Pokhara, west Nepal, advertises itself as "The Last Resort for Travellers".

Promissory note

When Sir Peter Wakefield retired last year as British Ambassador to Belgium he asked for a concert featuring Barry Tuckwell as his farewell present. Embassy staff happily complied in and the Australian horn player was flown out to Brussels. Tomorrow Tuckwell repays the compliment by playing at a fund-raising concert at the Barbican for the National Arts Collection Fund. The director of the fund is Sir Peter Wakefield.

Watch your step

At an earnest meeting yesterday to discuss the problems of step-parents, someone asked whether there was any recommended reading on the subject. Yes indeed, was the reply; for step-mothers *The Sound of Music*, and for step-fathers *Lolita*.

BARRY FANTONI



'Nigel had hoped to sponsor TV-am, but apparently it's not a registered charity'

Community spirit

Further to my competition, announced yesterday, for a more imaginative design for the European flag, I notice that British members of the European Parliament socialist group received the following guidance note about the report which proposed the adoption of the Council of Europe flag: "Nothing will be found in the report that need trouble the socialist conscience - although a red nose within the circle of gold stars would be most welcome." There is an idea for a start, though it suggests booters rather than bureaucrats. It was a misprint of course. They really meant a red rose, the symbol of socialist parties in many European countries. I am sure we can do better than that.

Raising a storm

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution has hoisted distress signals about my note on Saturday, which had it conducting a poll offering lifeboatmen the option of retirement at 90. The questionnaire, sent to all lifeboat station secretaries, coxswains and coxswains, is the work of a hoaxer who has been plaguing the RNLI with similar fabrications for a year. I am sorry to have raised a false alarm.

What is known as "the Buzby effect" is going to make life more and more difficult for telephone owners. Increasing numbers of birds are adopting the telephone's electronic warble as part of their repertoire of song. It started with starlings, but has now spread to song thrushes and blackbirds. Peter Slater of Sussex University used a sonograph to compare the new song sung by a thrush and the sound of a telephone frequency, modulation rate and the timing of phrases were almost indistinguishable. Birds which learnt to imitate telephones installed near the nests in which they were raised may now be teaching whole generations of Buzbys to join British Telecom's avian advertising force, with the effect that subscribers will continually be rushing to answer a bird.

PHS

Lead: put the ban in top gear

by Des Wilson

The Government decision to accept the advice of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution that lead should be phased out of petrol is very welcome. Equally important, the Government and the multi-national industries should learn the crucial lessons from this controversy.

The first is that people place a much higher priority on environmental protection than the authorities and industry realize. The Royal Commission took up the issue only because of public concern, though ministers initially treated this concern with arrogance and assumed that it would soon blow over. One of the real gains from the success of the campaign to eliminate lead from petrol is that environmental issues generally will now be placed higher on the political agenda.

The second lesson is that there are limits to the role of scientific research in policy making. It has become clear that the advice given early in 1981 by Whitehall's own Chief Medical Officer, Sir Henry Yellowlee, was prophetic - "Truly conclusive evidence may be unobtainable and it is therefore doubtful whether there is anything to be gained by deferring a decision until the results of further research become available."

The public have now demonstrated that they expect decisions to be taken on the basis of prudence, and where the evidence of risk is substantial, as in this case, they expect the necessary action and will pay the price.

That said, I do not believe the issue of lead-in-petrol is completely resolved. First, the Royal Commission says that lead-free

petrol should be available by 1990 at the latest. This really will not do. Either the Royal Commission's call for "a substantially greater safety margin for the population as a whole" is justified, or it is not. If it is, then a definite and earlier date should be fixed. To parents of babies born this year and next, 1990 and the promise of greater safety for the next generation of children is hardly satisfactory.

We do not want to see the petroleum or car manufacturing industry harmed any more than is necessary to make their products pollution-free. They must be given reasonable time to make the transition. But we are concerned that they will try to create all sorts of technical and economic obstacles to early action.

Already, their view of the costs and problems involved contrasts sharply with that of the Royal Commission. The Campaign for Lead-Free Air (Clear) does not have the benefit of its opponents' technical and propaganda resources, but nevertheless believes that those costs and difficulties were exaggerated. There is no question where the Royal Commission stands: "The most practical means of eliminating lead would marginally increase overall energy demand if other factors were assumed to remain constant. But by the time the changeover takes place, any such energy penalty, besides being small in absolute terms, would be completely swamped by continuing improvements in car efficiency

and fuel economy. On a national basis it is highly improbable that removing lead would be reflected in any higher absolute expenditure and the impact on the individual motorist would be very small."

The Royal Commission recommends that ministers should call in the car manufacturing and oil industries to establish a timetable. Why cannot those whose endeavours have led to this decision also be involved? Why do these decisions always have to be left to the very people who have tried to postpone them and who, in this case, blundered in 1981 with the decision to proceed only to 0.15 grams per litre?

Third, while I accept that it makes sound sense to seek a Europe-wide initiative on this issue, and ministers should seek urgently to persuade our European partners to act together, Brussels has a remarkable capacity to delay action, and we cannot abdicate responsibility for the health of our children to others. We must press urgently for EEC-concerted action; if that does not come, we must proceed without it.

The ministers concerned will no doubt say they have committed themselves and we should trust them to act. They should recall that for 18 months they rejected our every argument, often distorted the evidence to their own advantage, and persistently claimed that their own policy was correct. They should not be surprised that scepticism remains about their determination to act with resolution.

The author is chairman of Clear and of Friends of the Earth.

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The Tate's collection of
Turners will come a step
closer to a home of its
own today when the Queen
Mother unveils the
foundation stone of the
Clare Gallery. Deyan Sudjic
examines the record of
James Stirling, the gallery's
controversial architect



The man behind the Tate's new work of art

James Stirling is an architect whose work provokes such paroxysms of fury among such a range of critics that he must undoubtedly be getting at least something right. When Roger Scruton for example used this page recently to attack modern architecture - "after CND and the Argentinians, the greatest threat facing Britain today" - he claimed that Stirling's was the ample figure he had in his sights.

It was Stirling who designed the remarkable Cambridge University history library; in the eyes of right-wing Spectator readers, a far more unforgetable sin than any amount of developer's hit-and-run backwork. From the opposite end of the political spectrum, the monumentalism of Stirling's recent work has stirred some defenders of orthodox modernism to accuse him of "fascism". His columns, massive masonry and formal planning all smack of Speer and the Third Reich, they claim. Stirling's champions are equally given to overstatement. The American Philip Johnson has called him "the world's greatest living architect".

It has taken all of Stirling's highly developed sense of irony to survive. What other serious, 57-year-old professional would have the nerve to allow himself to be photographed for

the cover of a colour supplement building a sandcastle, kitted out with bucket, spade and knotted handkerchief? Stirling's greatest claim to attention, however, is his remarkable ability to go on inventing style after style, which legends of imitators go on struggling to reproduce years after the master has moved on to other things.

He began with a couple of essays in Brutalism, dabbled with system building, tried high tech, and is now ransacking history for inspiration. And still he gives every impression of being about to move on yet again always well ahead of the field. He is, in short, an original; and originals are never comfortable to have around.

Today the Queen Mother unveils the foundation stone of the new Clare Gallery, being built to Stirling's design to house the Tate's Turner collection. It is his only prominent commission in London to date, occupying a conspicuous position overlooking the Thames, attached to the Tate's existing facade. And it is also one of his most significant designs, marking the coming of age of post-modern architecture in Britain.

Despite Stirling's enormous reputation overseas, measured by commissions in West Germany,

Italy and America, he has built nothing at all at home since 1976. It is as if Graham Greene had been writing exclusively in Spanish for the past 10 years. The fact that the Tate's trustees should have chosen Stirling at all is evidence of the glimmerings of some kind of renaissance of interest in architecture here.

Especially so when Stirling's design is viewed against the dismal stone box that houses the Tate's previous extension. In their desperation to get away from the blandness represented by that kind of approach, most of Britain's brighter architects have dabbled in sight gags and architectural one-liners to stave off the boredom. Terry Farrell's tinsel town glitter for TV-am's studios in Camden Town is typical, and attracted lots of publicity. But Stirling will have much more impact in the long term. He is the first major architect of the 1960s to have come to terms with the historical legacy of architecture. He is unselfconscious about working with the planning principles of the past. But he is also mature enough to recognize that the heroic period of modern architecture in the 1930s is equally a part of our heritage.

All of this sounds like a huge burden for one small L-shaped building in Millbank to carry on its

shoulders. Judging by the drawings of the scheme now on show at the Institute of Contemporary Arts exhibition, *Model Futures*, it is more than equal to the task. Stirling has treated every facade in a different way: anathema to the early modernists who made a fetish out of consistency, but highly appropriate for a building whose guiding intentions are respect for context.

So the main facade is classically inspired, with a central bay window, a colonnade and solid masonry walls, in deference to the character of the Tate itself. But there is also a brick - faced wing, nearest to an adjoining brick - built Edwardian structure, as well as a "modern" service entrance, free of historical mannerisms. At the corners the different approaches collide with one another in almost surreal fashion.

Inside, the gallery space has a formality that would have gladdened the hearts of the National Gallery's trustees whose search for a "basilica" created so many problems for the entrants to the National Gallery extension competition.

The whole building is difficult, not to say prickly and cussed, not unlike Stirling himself. It demonstrates the importance in fact of the individual over the conventions of style in the most potent fashion.

New Deal or no deal? London heavies leave the Scots on the rocks

national economic assessment "with this or any other government".

With logic apparently on its side, this unusual alliance of bovine boys from the pits and white-collar government executives argued that if the national economic assessment was not about wage restraint - as the politicians insisted - there could be no harm in saying so, explicitly.

It is a measure of the trade union leaders' obsession with the necessity to get Mrs Thatcher out of office that top-level figures from the TUC general council had descended on their hapless Scottish colleagues to pull them into line. There was to be no public rejection of the national economic assessment, or of wage restraint. Opposition was to be either defeated or diverted, or both.

This is confidently expected to be the case when support for *Partners in Rebuilding Britain* is debated today and incomes policy tomorrow. The unions will emerge with unity, which they consider the highest

form of political expression.

Ironically, much of the "gentle persuasion" took place over glasses of Scotch at a pre-conference party at which the leaders of the BTUC, as the parent body in London is known with a mixture of respect and resentment, leaned on the would-be militants until a majority of votes against the miners and civil servants had been assembled. The hard left was then obliged to find a way of retreating without loss of face.

The STUC manoeuvre have set a precedent, certain to be followed at other union conferences this summer, to head off left-wing opposition and to present a show of unity at the election. Members of the TUC general council will argue to their unions that the joint political accord was signed after the deadline for motions to be submitted to most union conferences, and it must therefore be treated as an emergency issue. This device leaves the way open for a simple, unqualified



Arm twisting as the Scotch flowed: Moss Evans (left), David Bassett and Clive Jenkins, all arguing for the TUC-Labour plan

Geoffrey Smith

The fudge holding Labour together

There has been a new mood in the Labour Party since Bernadette. It has been brought together by a common fear of displaying the disunity which remains as deep as ever beneath the surface. But on the surface the ranks have been closed.

There they were shoulder to shoulder at Darlington: Mr Foot, Mr Healey, even Mr Callaghan. Mr O'Sullivan won the by-election by presenting the less contentious face of Labour, a very invitation to unity in himself with his encyclopaedic knowledge of local faces and local issues, which are so much less divisive than broader topics.

Mr Benn has been quiet. Mr Scargill has seemed less menacing since the failure of the NUM executive to force a national coal strike over the Tynan-Lewis Merthyr mine. I suspect that this may have played a more important part than is generally appreciated in the partial recovery of Labour fortunes, which was apparent in last week's Gallup poll in the *Daily Telegraph*. At the Northfield by-election last October the twin ogres mentioned time and again in the doomsday book were "Scargill and Benn" - usually in that order. At Darlington I never heard Mr Scargill's name mentioned by a single voter. He appeared to have lost the status of a demon.

So, partly by accident and partly by design, Labour is offering a less threatening face to the public. There is an evident determination not to upset the voters this side of the election. Bernadette stands as an awful warning of what can happen when this elementary rule of self-preservation is ignored. But for how long can this restraint last? Can even a superficial impression of unity be preserved until the votes have been cast?

When such questions have been put in the past, they have usually related to the conduct of the left. Now they relate principally to the conduct of the right. Previously the question was whether the left was prepared to put up with right-wing leadership and largely right-wing policies for the sake of winning the election. Now what is at issue is whether the right is prepared to accept the leader it does not want and a number of policies which it despises.

The right faces a double dilemma because it does not believe that it has either the leader or the policies best calculated to win the election. It therefore has to ask itself two questions: whether Labour's electoral fortunes would benefit more from changes in policies and leadership than it would suffer from the conflict that would be involved in bringing them about, and whether it can afford to allow a future Labour government to be lumbered with the policy commitments that have been imposed by the left.

Roger Scruton

Our allies in the Warsaw Pact

A *Times* leader on March 30 pointed out that the "Brezhnev doctrine" was invoked to justify the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968. That is true. According to this doctrine, the leader argued, "communist governments must be expected to help each other militarily in times of crisis". That, however, is false. The Brezhnev doctrine is indifferent to all crises except those which threaten Soviet power; it offers no help, but only hindrance, and its "military assistance" takes the form of armed invasion.

What the doctrine actually says is that the "socialist states" have "limited sovereignty". For in all matters which might be perceived by the Kremlin as a threat to Soviet control, the "socialist" states are subject to military coercion.

Limited sovereignty means, in effect, the absence of sovereignty. In most matters which affect social and political identity, the economic order, the legal and institutional superstructure, foreign policy and military preparedness of the "socialist" states, no decisions can be taken by the indigenous governments. A party invaded the body politic, which is jerked into a semblance of life only when strings are pulled in Moscow. Limited sovereignty means not sovereignty but subjection.

Obvious perhaps. But strangely ignored by many who discuss the military balance, and the political division in Europe. We must bear in mind that the Warsaw Pact, unlike NATO, is not an alliance. An alliance is a voluntary association of sovereign states for the purpose of defence. It can be ended unilaterally by any state which sees reason to withdraw from it. It no more involves the loss of sovereignty than a contract (which is the paradigm of free association) involves the loss of freedom by those party to it. An expression of freedom, and nations which lose the freedom to form or relinquish alliances lose the most important freedom that they have.

The Warsaw Pact is not a "voluntary association between sovereign states for defence purposes. It is not voluntary; its members are defended but only - as in the case of Czechoslovakia - attacked its constituents. The East European states are no more free to withdraw from the Pact than they were free originally not to join. Their military and political stance is unilaterally dictated by the controlling power, which compels obedience, precisely through the military structure which the "Pact" establishes.

The armies of the subject states are in a sense slave armies, and their governments puppet governments. That was why the Brezhnev doctrine was so appropriately invoked to justify the invasion of Czechoslovakia. An alliance which has consisted in imposing itself by force upon its constituents is not an alliance, but an instrument of coercion.

The consequences for us should not go unnoticed. The Warsaw Pact is maintained at a level of military preparedness which far surpasses anything attained by the armies of NATO. It is well equipped, massively extended, and brought under a single, and single-minded, command. There is no need for compromise or consultation; on the contrary, the whole military machine can be set in motion by a single order. No such systematic preparedness is, or could be, exhibited by NATO. Had it existed we should never have defied the United States so far as to fight over the Falklands.

The nature of the Warsaw Pact is such, therefore, as to expose Western Europe to the risk of a rapid and irreversible defeat in the event of a "conventional" conflict. To avoid defeat we should have either to match the conventional capacity and political intransigence of the Warsaw Pact, or else to develop a strategy that would permit us to fight on far beyond the point of initial weakness. Since we cannot do the first, we must prepare for the second.

On the leadership the answer is fairly clear. Since Darlington the chances of a change have been much reduced. Many people in the party, by no means all of them on the right, still believe that Labour would have a much better prospect of victory under someone other than Mr Foot. But he would now be still less inclined to go quietly and there would have to be some further catastrophes for the party before he could be pushed.

The critical choices for the right at this stage are on policy. There are some fairly senior figures who will publicly dissociate themselves from the commitments on Europe and defence in the recent policy statement, *The New Hope for Britain*, if these are repeated in the election manifesto. In his presidential address to the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers at Eastbourne yesterday Mr Terry Duffy made abundantly clear his opposition to unilateral nuclear disarmament, which put him at odds with some of the underlings in that document.

Much will depend on the position taken by several other unions which will be holding their conferences over the next few weeks. There will not be time to reopen the basic issue at a party conference until the election is postponed until either the very late autumn or next year. But if unions with substantial collective strength - the AUEW is the second largest in the country - were to take a determined stand against unilateralism it would be natural for them to demand at the very least that the manifesto should not reiterate the promise to remove all nuclear bases from Britain "within the lifetime of the Labour government".

If the right were to press such a demand it would expose itself to the charge of splitting the party. The battle over the manifesto would probably come out into the open; and even if it did not, any change from the wording of the defence commitments contained in *The New Hope for Britain* would be eagerly scrutinized by critics inside and outside the party. The more comfortable course would be to try to fudge the issue, as Mr Healey did when the document was published, by implying that the commitments would probably not be relevant to practical policy.

The trouble with that is that it would require the party to fight the election with undertakings on a major issue that were contrary both to the convictions of a number of senior Labour figures and to the majority of public opinion. That would be embarrassing during the campaign and more deeply disturbing if Labour were to form the next government. But on this thread of the continuing impression that the party is now united.

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GOOD RIDDANCE TO LEAD

Nothing that can be said about lead has done more to give it a bad name than the supposed effect of even small quantities of the stuff on the intelligence and behaviour of children. Most of the thrust to the campaign for the abolition of the common uses of lead, notably in petrol, has come from the self-accusation that we allow an avoidably lead-infested environment to surround a significant proportion of our children. It is an irony that the campaign should have become increasingly influential while its first charge has become decreasingly conclusive.

The difficulty about demonstrating a causal connexion between the levels of concentration of lead in children's bodies and their performance and behaviour is not merely the difficulty of being accurate about minute quantities of the substance and about the measurement of intelligence and behavioural disturbance. Other factors such as parental IQ or social conditions may be similarly correlated in a complex pattern in which it is not possible to identify the causal threads.

The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution concludes its consideration of this part of the evidence by saying, "In our view the accumulated evidence may indicate a causal association between the body burden of lead and psychometric indices, or the effects of confounding factors, or both. On present evidence we do not consider it possible to distinguish between these possibilities."

But where the science of the subject may admit doubt, the politics of the subject knows no such hesitation. It is now past the point where the onus of proof shifts from those who challenge current practices to those who would defend them. It is no longer necessary to show that a thick urban environment exposes children to the risks considered; it is necessary to show that it does not. And the second can be done no more

conclusively than the first. The children, not the lead, get the benefit of the doubt, and when the matter is put like that, who would dare dispute it?

The report of the royal commission displays the extent of uncertainty surrounding the subject - uncertainty about the relative importance of different sources of lead pollution in the environment and of the different routes by which it approaches and enters the body, about the levels giving rise to poisoning of other harm, about the interpretation of the statistical evidence.

Constantly to stress the difficulties, the authors say, would be "an excessively negative approach." Instead we have seen our task as making the best assessment from the existing information and drawing robust conclusions. One piece of the existing information impressed them, as well it might. The average blood lead concentration in the United Kingdom is one quarter of that at which unmistakable features of lead poisoning may occur. "We are not aware of any other toxin which is so widely distributed... and which is also universally present at levels that exceed even one tenth of that at which clinical signs and symptoms may occur." The safety margin is precariously small in view of the chances of running into quite high local concentrations in the environment.

That, with the rest of its assessment, prompts the commission to open a general offensive against the practices through which man releases lead into the environment, from the most particular (boys with fishing rods closing split shot weights with their teeth) to the most general (emissions from the exhaust pipes of cars).

Petrol companies and motor manufacturers have been given a lot of stick in recent years; plumbars and water undertakers less stick than they deserve. Nearly half the houses in the country receive a water supply

that passes at some stage through lead piping. Where the water has the property of dissolving lead a person may receive more than half his uptake of lead from that source, which is more than twice as much as he is likely to get from lead in petrol.

The remedy is obvious, replace lead piping with one of the common and satisfactory substitutes. But it costs a bit, it requires action by householders, and it involves arguable decisions about apportionment of the expense. Instead of that there is a mixture of incentive grants, surveys by water boards, and additives to the water, all of which makes for small change. The Minister's practical enthusiasm for lead clearance should be judged by what he does about water pipes as well as what he does about petrol.

There is an already established trend in the industrialized world towards reduced lead content in petrol and ultimately lead-free petrol. Oil refiners and motor manufacturers are braced for further impetus in that direction coming from their governments, public opinion is expectant, and even motoring opinion, if that can be separated out, is becoming reconciled to the extra running and capital costs (which do not look too bad - part of the pain, according to the royal commission, coming not as extra fuel consumption but in the gentler form of fuel economy foregone).

The important thing now is to get the timing of this process right, which does not mean in the shortest possible time at all costs. The object is the avoidance not of uncertainties but of uncertain risks. It is therefore legitimate to weigh the economic costs of the innovation required and to balance that against speed of introduction. It is also right to seek as close a synchronization as possible among the major producers and markets. The commission looks to the landmark of all new cars built for lead-free petrol by the end of this decade. That is a reasonable target.

A DIALOGUE BETWEEN COUSINS

For five days last week, in the Atlantic Hotel, Hamburg, about a hundred European and Arab scholars, writers and diplomats met to discuss "the relations between the two cultures" - not the two made famous by the late Lord Snow but those of Western Europe and of the Arab world.

Nothing very unusual about that. Conferences, seminars and colloquia on such themes have for some years been the staple diet of Middle East specialists on both sides of the Atlantic. Sometimes they are sponsored by private foundations, sometimes hosted by this or that Arab government. The Hamburg symposium broke new ground, however, being officially organized, as an act of policy, by the European Community on one side and the League of Arab States on the other.

It was part of a curious, perhaps unique process known as the "Euro-Arab Dialogue", launched in the aftermath of the 1973 Middle East war, when oil production cuts and the embargo on sales to the Netherlands had made Europe suddenly and uncomfortably conscious of her dependence on the Arab world. The Arabs on their side were anxious for greater European understanding for their point of view, particularly of course on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Those were not, perhaps, ideal circumstances in which to embark on a dialogue. The emotions most commonly felt towards the Arabs by ordinary Europeans were resentment and envy. European leaders were naturally sensitive to the accusation that they were giving in to "Arab blackmail" on political issues, while at the same time eager to secure their countries' access to Middle East oil, to the rapidly expanding Arab market, and to the Arab petrodollars available for investment. Consequently they sought to limit the dialogue to economic and technical subjects while the Arabs insisted that it must have a political dimension.

"Cultural cooperation" was almost the only thing that both sides could easily agree on, at least in principle, and one of the first joint projects to be launched, as long ago as 1977, was this symposium "on the relationship between the two civilizations." Even so, partly because the dialogue as a whole was disrupted by the crisis between Egypt and the rest of the Arab League in 1979, it took until

1983 to bring the project to fruition.

"Civilizations" or "cultures"? "Relations" or "relationship"? Not all the problems of communication were trans-Mediterranean. The Arab participants were at an advantage in having a common language. The Europeans, having unwisely dispensed with Latin for this purpose some centuries back, stumbled over the foundations of their regional Babel. A British participant confessed himself unable to understand the title of his own paper, provided for him by a committee whose working language was apparently Double Dutch.

It seemed almost callously frivolous to be talking culture when an Arab leader, much admired by Europeans had just been shot dead in a Portuguese hotel, while an American peace plan enjoying European support had just been given the thumbs-down by the key Arab party. It may seem equally callous and frivolous to be writing about such things now, when yesterday the corpses of Arabs and Americans lay across each other in the visa section of the American embassy in Beirut.

Yet such events, while they illustrate the difficulty of dialogue, also emphasize its necessity. Part of the trouble with the Euro-Arab relationship is precisely that too often we see each other only through the prism of conflict - especially in recent years the Arab-Israeli conflict with its various ramifications. Arabs see Europeans as unrepentant crusader-colonizers and incorrigible Zionists. Europeans see Arabs as wild fanatics, always stirring up trouble and unwilling to let Jews live in peace. Neither image is without its kernel of reality, yet both distort because they leave so much out; and as they influence behaviour on both sides, they tend to be self-fulfilling.

Many participants, both European and Arab, emphasized the contribution which the Arabs had made to European civilization during the Middle Ages - the influence of Averroes on Aquinas being only the best known of many examples. An Algerian scholar, Dr Mohammed Arkoun, pointed out that Averroes himself was typical of the Islamic world of that era in his openness to ideas from outside that world, and in the rationalism of his approach. Unfortunately, he said, that

approach had been inherited more by subsequent Western culture than by subsequent Islamic culture.

Should one equate "Arab" and "Islamic"? Should one equate "Western" with "European" - or either with "West European"? Perhaps not, but one will find it very difficult to discuss culture on this grand scale without doing so. The Arabs may have had great civilizations before Islam, and Christians may have played a key role in the Arab Awakening of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. But, without the spread of Islam, most of the states in the Arab League would not be Arab at all. Present-day Western Europe may share a culture with North America and some other places, but no one can dispute that culture's European origin. Eastern Europe may rightfully belong to the same civilization but, things being what they are today, it is Western Europe that must carry the torch.

If Arab civilization is Islamic, what is European civilization? Christian, post-Christian, Judeo-Christian, secular - all were canvassed, and are not necessarily mutually exclusive. Professor Antoine Vergote, of the Catholic University of Louvain, gave a brilliant exegesis of the dialectical relationship between Christianity and secularism, arguing that Christian belief, shared by a majority, can still be a powerful and dynamic force in a secular society that "no longer believes in the establishment of a paradise of liberty and happiness through progress".

A similarly "functionalist" view of Islam was sketched by Mr Kamal Abul-Magd, an Egyptian former information minister, but he too warned that Islam can play this role only if it turns its back decisively on cultural isolation. It needs a dose of old-style secular optimism to convince oneself that that is what is happening in the Arab world at present, but with people like Mr Abul-Magd around there is still hope.

It is salutary anyway to be reminded that Arab-Islamic civilization is not something alien to us but our own branch grown from another root. As Professor Jan Bruggman of the University of Leiden put it, "A Sino-European dialogue would be friendly enough, but not the same thing. Our dialogue is not between strangers, but between cousins."

Probation service pay concern

From Lord Wells-Pestell and others

We write to express our concern at the decision of the Home Secretary to cut the pay for persons starting training for the probation service in 1983. The present scale, which is dependent on age and experience, starts at £4,551 and rises to £5,529. It is to be replaced by a new scale starting at £3,988 and rising to £4,382. Every trainee will be worse off. Those most affected will be those starting on the bottom scale, which will be over £960 per annum less.

The National Association of Probation Officers has used every possible argument against this proposal. Meetings with Home Office officials and with the minister responsible have produced no change of opinion. On December 13 last, a lengthy debate in the House of Lords, in which signatories of this letter and others took part, failed to make any impression on the Government.

The Home Office has stated that it believes the number of those wanting to train for the probation service is sufficiently high to enable it to reduce the pay. With very high unemployment this is a truism which might be applied to many kinds of employment, but we are unaware of any other instance of such cuts having been made.

As regards the probation service, we are very concerned about the resentment which this decision has caused among its members. We are also concerned about the prospects of attracting the right sort of person. We believe it to be very important to attract mature men and women of high quality into the service.

We are primarily concerned with the lowest starting level of £3,988 per annum. It seems to us that this is quite indefensible. We recognize the need for departments to save money, but the saving at the lowest starting point will be only £90,000 per annum. We cannot feel that such chicanery is in the best interests of the community, particularly at a time when the Home Secretary is about to introduce new forms of treatment for offenders, which probation officers will be required to undertake.

We regret that the National Association of Probation Officers feel that there is now no other alternative for them than to take industrial action. We hope it will not come to that and that the Home Secretary will think again. Yours faithfully, LORD WELLS-PESTELL, ALLAN OF ABBEYDALE, DONALDSON, ELYSTON-MORGAN, JANE EMMETT-BIGGS, JOHN HUNT, WIGGODER, House of Lords, April 13.

Animal experiments

From Mr Clive Hollands

Your report on the joint proposals submitted to the Home Secretary on animal experiments by the British Veterinary Association, the Committee for the Reform of Animal Experimentation and the Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments (April 15) did not refer to the most important element in the proposals which rely almost entirely for their effectiveness on the "pain clause" which governs what may be permitted in terms of the infliction of suffering in relation to the purpose of the experiment.

This "pain clause", which is the absolute minimum acceptable in new legislation, would permit the infliction of pain, suffering or distress of no more than trivial intensity and momentary duration unless the procedure was judged to be of exceptional importance in meeting the essential needs of man or animals.

Yours sincerely, CLIVE HOLLANDS, Secretary, Committee for the Reform of Animal Experimentation, 1 Queensberry Street, Edinburgh, April 15.

Post-coital pill

From Mr P. L. C. Diggory

Sir, There is now pretty firm medical evidence that the primary, though probably not only, mode of action of the intra-uterine device takes place after fertilisation. This is most certainly true of hormone-impregnated intra-uterine devices which enjoy extensive use worldwide but not greatly in this country.

It is now, therefore, a matter of urgency that doctors should be assured that the use of these devices does not constitute a breach of the law. Yours faithfully, PETER DIGGORY, Kingston and Essex Health Authority, Kingston Hospital, Wolverton Avenue, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, April 15.

Aid to Third World

From Mr John R. Clapperton

Sir, Professors Bauer and Yamey (feature, April 11) may possibly be right in their criticisms of the aid programme to the Third World. Bearing in mind that one person in four in the world suffers from malnutrition, while there is a surplus of food in the developed world, we have what amounts to mismanagement on a global scale. I expected to see at least one positive alternative suggestion as to how this problem could be solved.

Film-making a government concern

From Mr James Quinn

Sir, Mr David Hewson, in his otherwise perceptive article (April 13), remarks that "no one has yet explained adequately why the cinema industry is more deserving of favourable treatment than, say, makers of ball bearings..."

Comparisons, to be of value, should compare like with like. It may well be that the ball-bearing industry offers "steadier employment for more people", but whether true or untrue is this more important to Britain than the impact of its films - in cinemas and on television - on the minds of millions throughout the world?

Furthermore, trade follows the flag, it is said. Thus the promotion of our image abroad is of paramount importance on several counts. The Foreign Office recognized this truth when it set up the National Panel for Film Festivals in 1966 under Professor (now Lord) Briggs to promote the best of British short films at international film festivals. The work of the panel has now been taken over by another voluntary body under the aegis of the British Council.

In creating its new advisory committee, whose brief includes television and video as well as films, the council has made plain its belief that in the "contest for influence" - to borrow one of its own phrases - the moving image has a vital part to play in exporting Britain. It is to be noted that the governments of virtually all European countries have long accepted that their film industries deserve favourable treatment for similar reasons.

In the context of the immense international publicity and debate surrounding *Gandhi*, the extraordinary success of *Chariots of Fire* and the diplomatic furore attending *Death of a Princess* not too long ago, it is hard to comprehend the need to argue yet again that the production of good British films must be the concern of government for reasons which go far beyond the issues of employment, steady or casual.

Yours sincerely, JAMES QUINN, Crescent Cottage, 108 Marine Parade, Brighton, Sussex, April 13.

Filling the school void

From Mrs Anne Mitchell

Sir, I find in the otherwise commonsensical editorial, "Filling the school void" (April 12) some disturbing assumptions. Chief of these is the assertion that "a gifted teacher... can work minor miracles with a big class crammed into a Nissen hut with a blackboard and chalk."

This not only displays a romantic naivety, but gives ammunition to Sir Keith Joseph and the others who assume that all teachers ought to "work minor miracles", i.e. achieve good examination results, in all classes, regardless of the size and conditions.

Of course there are "gifted" teachers who can do good work in bad conditions, but most teachers, being only conscientious, hardworking and dedicated, find that they can work better in good conditions, with smaller classes, sufficient textbooks and materials and in pleasant surroundings.

No doubt a doctor, immersed in some African hut, equipped with a stethoscope, broken hypodermic syringe and a bottle of TCC would do as good a job as he could, but can anyone seriously doubt that he would be able to do a far better one with a modern clinic and the best equipment?

The myth of the brilliant teacher working miracles in the Nissen hut needs to be exploded. Keith Joseph may demand dedication, hard work and competence from all teachers, but he has no right to expect miracles.

Yours faithfully, ANNE MITCHELL, 126 High Street, Eton, Windsor, Berkshire, April 12.

Desirable residence

From Sir Anthony Lousada

Sir, When chairman of the advisory committee of the Government Art Collection I was concerned with the provision of works of art for the Government estate at home and abroad. I suggest that the Public Accounts Committee, as reported in your feature, "The Empire strikes back for the good life" (April 6) has misunderstood the purpose of an ambassador's residence.

Just as 10 Downing Street represents Britain at home, so the embassies represent Britain abroad. The style and scale of the accommodation are not for the ambassador as an individual. His role is more akin to a resident caretaker/hotelier than to a wealthy tenant/landowner. Meanwhile he has to project an image of Britain and in competition with other embassies win the respect of the host country. In a world ultra-sensitive to the nuances of style, influence is acquired and maintained by tone.

We should be proud that Eden Hall is "the acme of elegance" rather than a dowdy, standardised housing unit of so many square metres. How can we expect our ambassadors successfully to promote British goods, expertise, culture and political influence abroad if we take away their prestige premises and give them mere accommodation addresses? Whatever modest standards of accommodation have been agreed for new embassies, it would be as counter-productive to sell off our national assets abroad as it would be to sell off 10 Downing Street and put the Prime Minister in a pied-à-terre in Piccadilly.

Yours faithfully, ANTHONY LOUSADA, The Tides, Chiswick Mall, W4.

Powys review

From Professor G. R. Wilson Knight

Sir, In his review of *The Powys Brothers* (April 7) Mr Byron Rogers highlights for his purpose a selection of biographical facts, drawn from Mr Graves' comprehensive survey. Tolstoy's account of the events in King Lear in support of his aspersions on Shakespeare comes to

Europe's interests in arms control

From Dr Hugh Macdonald

Sir, Sir Clive Rose (letter, April 11), Lawrence Freedman (feature, March 19) and Sir Martin Ryle (letter, March 30) identify contradictions in the Soviet negotiating position at the INF talks in Geneva. But it is illogical to dilate upon Soviet obfuscation while refusing to recognise the same propensity on the Western side.

The vital questions about this indefinability, on both sides, but here particularly the Soviet, are: is it justifiable, in what order might it be unravelled; and whose security will be most hurt by its continuance?

The SS20 and other modern Soviet intermediate nuclear systems were developed to provide flexible nuclear options, to counter American, British, French and Chinese nuclear capabilities previously deployed. Soviet strategic nuclear systems decidedly lacked - and continue to lack - the requisite technical and geographic flexibility.

The subsequent arms control issues can be interminably twisted by statistics. What matters most is that there is neither a mutually acceptable parity, as the Russians allege, nor a six-against-one disadvantage for the West, as the Americans assert. Hence the basis of understanding required for an agreement does not presently exist, and both sides are justified in proceeding with whatever deployments they deem desirable.

If this kind of unilateralism is thought undesirable, in the common good, then some serious initial effort to avoid the impasse must come from the West, for three reasons.

It was NATO which proposed to link its deployment to arms control, but which has yet to make a clear, reasonable, offer that will satisfy the common good: the zero option - regrettably - was intended only as propaganda; the famous "walk in the woods" talk between Mr Nitze and Mr Kvitinsky proved too divisive in Washington to be pursued further; and President Reagan's latest "interim offer" is both vague and one-sided.

While the West condemns continued Soviet SS20 deployments, its own planning for the deployment of seven significant nuclear or nuclear capable systems in and around the European region is proceeding. Not to be able to recognise that, whatever their different functional and national purposes, these appear to the Russians as "strategic", in just the same sense as Soviet missiles in Cuba did to Americans in 1962, or SS20s to West Europeans today, is absurd and perverse.

This is all the more so because the losers in a protracted Soviet-American nuclear arms race in this region will be the governments and societies of Europe. For as we are in Western Europe to think and recommend as we see fit, it is not past time to cease irrelevant provincial squabbles between dovish and hawkish views of how to treat the Russians, and realise that extremely difficult but perhaps irretrievable opportunities to improve the terms of East-West security are - for the moment - open to European influences and interests?

Yours faithfully, HUGH MACDONALD, As from the London School of Economics and Political Science, Houghton Street, WC2.

Stillborn babies

From Lord Norwich

Sir, If, as the anti-abortion lobby assures us, human life begins at the moment of conception, there certainly seems no reason to withhold baptism from a child *in utero*. History provides instances not only - as your correspondent, Miss Catherine Morton, points out today (April 11) - of baptism in such circumstances, but of at least one coronation.

Your readers will doubtless recall Gibbon's account of the coronation of King Shapur II of Persia in AD 309:

"The wife of Hormizd, remained pregnant at the time of her husband's death, and the uncertainty of the sex, as well as of the event, excited the ambitious hopes of the princes of the house of Sasan. The apprehension of civil war was at length removed by the positive assurance of the Magi that the widow of Hormizd had conceived, and would safely produce a son."

Obedient to the voice of superstition, the Persians prepared, without delay, the ceremony of his coronation. A royal bed, on which the queen lay in state, was exhibited in the midst of the palace; the dissonant music of the organ which he was supposed to conceal the future heir of Artaxerxes, and the prostitute satrape adorned the majesty of their invisible and insensible sovereign."

Yours faithfully, JOHN JULIUS NORWICH, Flat No. 8, 38 Courtfield Gardens, SW5, April 11.

Flight of fancy

From Mr W. G. Teagle

Sir, Collared doves (letter, April 12) have also provided anachronistic background noises for the televised works of Dickens, Trollope and Chekhov. One might expect to hear them in present-day Cambridge of course, but there they would have to compete with all those abnormal blackbirds, chaffinches and nightingales that insist on singing well into the summer, when other members of their species are resting their voices.

The BBC has a splendid Natural History Unit. Has it also got a department which specialises in Unnatural History?

Yours faithfully, W. G. TEAGLE, 41 Bell Street, Merton, Surrey, Dorset, April 13.

Yours faithfully, JOHN WHITEHEAD, 51 Owstone Road, Cambridge, April 12.

Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

City Office
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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 695.0 down 0.5
 FT All Shares: 82.19 up 0.10
 FT All Shares: 441.52 up 2.0
 Bargains: 25.612
 Tring Hall USM Index: 172.9
 up 0.5
 Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones
 Average: 8,582.53, up 30.37
 Hongkong: Hang Seng Index,
 1,040.97
 New York: Dow Jones Average
 1,172.21 up 0.87 of a point.

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
 Sterling \$1.5815 up 1.35
 cents
 Index 83.8 up 0.9
 DM 3.8325
 Fr 11.51
 Yen 371.75
 Dollar
 Index 122.8 up 0.3
 DM 2.4595 up 210 pts
 Gold
 \$441.50 up \$4
 NEW YORK LATEST
 Gold \$443.00
 Sterling \$1.5820

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
 Base rates 10
 3 month interbank 10 1/4-10 1/2
 Euro-currency rates:
 3 month dollar 9 1/4-9 1/2
 3 month DM 5 1/4-5 1/2
 3 month Fr 13 1/4-13 1/2
 ECSD Fixed Rate Sterling
 Export Finance Scheme IV
 Average reference rate for
 interest period March 2 to April
 5, 1983 inclusive: 10.974 per
 cent.

PRICE CHANGES

T S L Therm. Sys. 58p, up
 15p
 Johnson & F.B. 10p, up 2p
 Auto. Prod. 35p, up 5p
 M T D (Mansfield) 25p, up 3p
 Alaska Beer 142p, up 18p
 S. W. Wood 16p, up 2p
 Blackw. Hedge 24p, down
 3p
 Wharfedale 11p, down
 1p
 T. Borthwick 23p, down 2p
 S. Viscosa 35p, down 3p
 Wharfedale 11p, down
 3p
 Wharfedale 11p, down
 3p
 Wharfedale 11p, down
 3p

TODAY

Interim: Stewart Nairn.
 Final: Abernethy Cement,
 Alva Inv Tet, Bank of Scotland,
 Crowther (John), Cussins
 Property, First Charlotte As-
 sets Tet, Hambro Life Assur-
 ance, Harrison Cowley, High-
 land Elces, Savoy Hotel, Tate
 of Leeds, Tilbury, Tove, Web-
 ster.

UDS seeking 135p a share

There were indications last night that the board of UDS, the stock group, would be prepared to change its mind and recommend the takeover terms offered by Hanson Trust, instead of those offered by rival bidder Bassishaw, if Hanson raised its cash offer from 133p to 135p a share.

The closing date for Hanson Trust's last offer of 133p in cash for each UDS ordinary share is Friday and the company has already won acceptance from 25 per cent of UDS shareholders. But the UDS board has made it clear that it had more faith in the written assurances over the future of the group and its employees made by Mr Gerald Ronson's Bassishaw Investments consortium, than those given by Hanson.

● **£35m ISSUE:** Applications open on Thursday for an issue of £35 million of City of Bristol 11 1/2 per cent red stock 2008 at £98. The stock is offered 200 partly paid with the balance due on October 12. Brokers Butler, Laing & Crickshank and Pember & Boyle have agreed to take up half of the issued capital.

● **RTZ STAKE:** Brokers Rowe & Pitman yesterday placed the remainder of Charter Consolidated's stake in rival mining finance house, Rio-Tinto Zinc, worth around £51m. The 9.1 million shares were placed with various institutions without too much trouble at 562p a share. Earlier this year Charter sold a further 1.15 million shares for about £6m.

Market report, page 22
 ● **INDUSTRIAL AID:** Government approval has been given for the English Industrial Estates Corporation to spend £27m on new industrial and commercial projects in assisted areas within England during 1983-4.
 ● **£50m EUROBOOND:** BOC International is raising £50m through a Eurobond issue maturing in 1991. The coupon is 11 1/2 per cent and the bonds cannot normally be redeemed before maturity.

Wall St stocks turn lower

New York (AP Dow Jones) - Wall Street stocks turned lower. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was off about 1 1/2 points compared with its early gain of 1 1/2.

Losers moved ahead of advances by about 50 issues. Trading was active.

Mr Gene Jay Seagle, director of Technical Research for Herzfeld & Stern, said: "There are enough doubting Thomases around to keep the market in check. They cause waves of profit-taking and shorting as we climb toward the 1,200 level."

Mr Seagle said: "We have had a hefty consolidation going back to the November top and carrying to the January bottom. It has been completed. I see no reason to expect anything like a 100 to 150-point setback that has been so commonly looked for. Those who feel that we need more volume are getting it."

Digital Equipment was 127 1/2 off 1/2, Eastman Kodak 81 1/2 off 1/2, Upjohn 53 1/2 off 1/2, American Hospital Supply 48 1/2 off 1/2, General Mills 52 1/2 off 1/2, Teletype 145 off 1/2, Texas Instruments 162 1/2 off 1/2, and Motorola 112 1/2 up 1/2.

General Dynamics was up 3/4 to 48 1/2, NCR up 1/2 to 114 1/2, General Electric up 1/2 to 109 1/2, General Motors up 1/2 to 63 1/2, American Telephone & Telegraph up 1/2 to 67 1/2, Sandstrand down 1/2 to 46 1/2, and American Express down 1/2 to 67 1/2.

Oil price cut 'a success'

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

The danger of an oil price war is over, says the Arab oil ministers declared yesterday as Britain was once again drawn into the sensitive politics of oil diplomacy.

Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Arabian oil minister, told a Bahrain news agency that last month's Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreement to cut prices by \$3 a barrel had proved to be a 100 per cent success in averting a collapse in world oil prices.

In London, meanwhile, a meeting of Opec's key market monitoring committee ended with ministers declaring that Opec's efforts to prevent further price cuts by favouring production were also proving successful.

"There is now no danger of a price war," Dr Mansour al-Otaibi, oil minister of the United Arab Emirates, and chairman of the monitoring conference, said at a press conference. Opec's 13 member countries were not cheating on either price or production levels, he had happened in the past, and oil demand was likely to recover strongly in the last quarter of the year, leading to a firming of prices.

Dr Otaibi later had another meeting with Mr Nigel Lawson, the Secretary of State for Energy, continuing the series of contacts between Britain and leading Opec ministers.

Dr Humberto Calderon Fent, the Venezuelan energy minister, is also scheduled to have discussions with Mr Lawson on Wednesday.

Department of Energy officials were again in pains yesterday to deny that Britain was contemplating any deals with Opec, and said that Mr Lawson's conversations with Dr Otaibi had been little more than a "friendly chat".

Claims over the weekend by the United Arab Emirates oil minister that Britain had agreed to restrain its North Sea oil production to help Opec defend its \$22 a barrel market price for crude oil were described in Whitehall as the result of a misunderstanding.

The Department of Energy has said that it expects North Sea production to be no higher this year than last year, but says this was going to happen anyway, and is not the result of any controls.

EEC ministers fail to agree size of cut

Call for cheaper export credits

From Ian Murray, Luxembourg

The need for a cut in minimum export credit rates between the big industrialized countries and the rest of the world was agreed by the 10 finance ministers of the EEC who met in Luxembourg yesterday. They remained divided on how large the cut should be.

Consequently the European Commission, which is to negotiate on their behalf when the Organization for Co-operation and Development (OECD) meets in Paris next week, has been given little more than a watching brief for the moment.

France, which has traditionally subsidised its export credits, pressed at yesterday's meeting for cuts of up to 2 per cent on the existing minimum rates, which vary between 10 to 12.4 per cent.

But Britain and West Germany wanted to restrict any cuts to no more than 1 per cent, especially in view of increasing American pressure to phase out

Volcker breaks with White House policy
Fed chairman recommends modest intervention to control dollar

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the United States Federal Reserve Board, in a break with Reagan philosophy has recommended a policy of modest intervention in currency markets to control the erratic dollar.

He proposed the policy of limited intervention during a private address to members of the prestigious Trilateral Commission, which is holding an annual three-day conference in Rome.

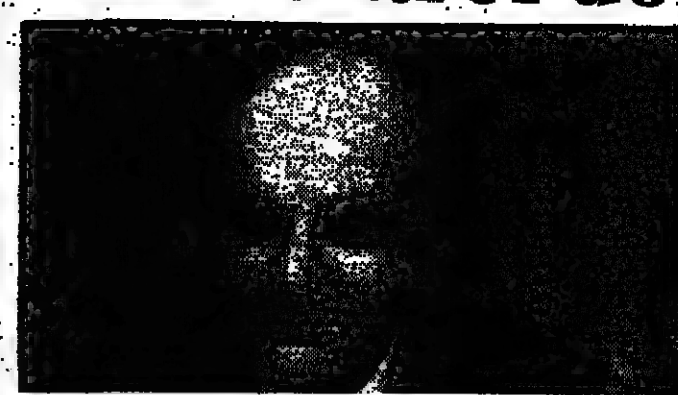
The Reagan Administration has come under increasing pressure on fluctuating exchange rates, a topic which is expected to be a priority at the Williamsburg economic summit next month.

The Administration is being pressed to reconsider its strict policy of non-intervention in currency markets.

But the Fed chairman said that industrialized nations should be prepared to step in with limited intervention when markets "overshoot", and currencies move upward erratically, as has been the case with the dollar.

This limited intervention had been United States policy before the Reagan Administration took office and adopted a policy of intervention only in near-catastrophic situations.

Despite growing internal dissent over this policy, the



Volcker: private speech

Administration has stuck to it, even in the face of pressure from Europe and Japan to intervene more often.

Only two weeks ago, Mr Martin Feldstein, chairman of the President's Council of

Economic Advisers, reiterated the position that market forces should be the sole determinant of exchange rates.

But other officials, including Mr Donald Regan, the United States Treasury Secretary, have hinted that they would like to see more stable rates through better international coordination of currency policies.

Mr Volcker's remarks came a few days after the announcement of an influential group of international leaders headed by Dr Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, will launch a campaign to force the Reagan Administration to agree to revisions of the international monetary system.

Dr Kissinger has stated his belief that world economic recovery cannot occur without revisions to the system.

Protest over Fraser board circular

By Peter Wilson-Smith

"Another row erupted yesterday between Lord and the House of Fraser over a circular from Lord's advising shareholders of the stores group to support a demerger of Harrods."

The circular, issued by Lord's two representatives on the House of Fraser board and carrying the stores group's letterhead, was immediately denounced by Professor Roland Smith, House of Fraser chairman.

He described it as "glamorously superficial" and full of selective quotations designed to mislead shareholders. He added: "We deplore the unauthorized use of the letterhead of the company. We are advised it is improper and are consulting our lawyers."

He also criticized the use of confidential information in the circular.

The two Lord's representatives, Lord Duncan-Sandys and Mr Roland "Toby" Rowland, who make clear in the circular they are House of Fraser directors expressing a contrary view to the rest of the board, said that there would be big advantages in demerging Harrods from the rest of the stores group.

Their circular says shareholders would benefit from a higher combined share price with Harrods commanding a high price/earnings ratio.

The House of Fraser investment programme is also sharply criticized: "In the last five years only £2.2m of capital expenditure has been invested in Harrods, while £90.5m has been invested in the rest of the group."



Lord Duncan-Sandys: contrary view

Yet Harrods generates over half of the group's profit before tax and is 'targeted' to earn a rate of return of nearly 30 per cent."

The Lord's representatives argue that the Harrods board could be able to raise standards and realize the full potential of the store if it was independent. "They will no longer have to satisfy the insatiable appetite of the other House of Fraser stores for Harrods' cash."

Lord's said yesterday the Stock Exchange had approved the circular and use of the House of Fraser letterhead. Shareholders are due to vote on May 6 at an extraordinary meeting on a House of Fraser resolution advising against a demerger. Lord's has requested another extraordinary meeting to put its own resolution, and is advising shareholders to vote against the motion from House of Fraser.

Insurance companies optimistic

By Our Financial Staff

Two leading composite insurance companies - Commercial Union and Royal Insurance, expect to improve their operating results this year after last year's huge increases in underwriting losses.

Mr Cecil Harris, chief executive of Commercial Union, said that last year was seen as a turning point for the group. He said that although gross profits this year would be higher than last year's £21.5m pre-tax, they were unlikely to recover to 1981 levels, when profits reached £89.5m.

The full benefit of the company's efforts to cut costs would be felt at the end of this year, and in full only in 1984.

However, the group still has problems in the US where weather claims contributed £198m towards total underwriting losses of £271m.

In Britain prospects are improving as life premiums show signs of hardening, while the Canadian market is recovering.

At Royal Insurance, which reported a 17 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £96.5m last year and underwriting losses of £166m against £102m in 1981, tough action has been taken to improve this year's performance.

Tilling chief hits at 'opportunists'

By Our Financial Staff

Sir Patrick Tilling, chief executive of Thomas Tilling, yesterday called the £600m takeover bid for his company by BTR "grossly inadequate" and "blatantly opportunistic."

His comments came the day Tilling issued its annual report and just ahead of the formal offer document from BTR, which is due out today.

Sir Patrick claimed that BTR was "trying to pocket Tilling assets on the cheap" and said the group had an excellent future by remaining independent.

Tilling had a big profit setback last year from £73.6m

to £43.7m before tax largely because its energy equipment divisions in the United States were hit by the problems of the oil industry.

However, Tilling is forecasting a big recovery in profits this year. Sir Robert Taylor chairman, says in the annual report: "I expect that our plans to resume profit growth will result in a significant recovery in 1983."

Sir Patrick said that the group would examine any move which might help to keep the group independent and he did not rule out the possibility of floating off part of the group.

£60m John Brown order

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Britain's depressed engineering industry received a fillip yesterday with news that John Brown Engineering has beaten fierce international competition to secure a £60m power station contract for the Far East.

The business was awarded by Thyssen Steel of West Germany in the face of bids from elsewhere in Europe, the United States and Japan.

The Clydebank company described the contract as a great success. The main part of the order will be made up from

three gas turbines plus boilers and ancillary components.

A spokesman said: "Over the last 10 years John Brown has developed the know-how and obtained the experience to negotiate big contracts like this around the world. This helps provide for the success of the company."

The announcement follows speculation recently that the company would be sold to offset the losses of the parent John Brown Group.

Sotheby's takeover 'by May'

By Michael Priest

General Felt Industries will own Sotheby's Parke Bernet, the fine art auctioneers, by the middle of May, Mr Stephen Swid, of General Felt, said yesterday.

But in a remark designed to ease the fears of Sotheby's experts, who have resisted the takeover, Mr Swid pledged that the firm and its colleagues, Mr Marshall Cogan, would work with the staff.

Mr Swid said: "I am confident and I think we will own Sotheby's by mid-May. We doubted whether Sotheby's would find a 'white knight' to rescue it from General Felt's \$92m (£38.9m) bid."

The two American businessmen made a general offer of \$200 a share for Sotheby's last week. But the bid has been rejected by the Sotheby directors and the company's 133 experts have threatened to resign if General Felt gains control.

More than half of Sotheby's shares are in American hands, but it is not clear how much of the equity is controlled by Mr Swid and Mr Cogan.

£140m US deal for Rowntree

By Sally White

Rowntree Mackintosh has agreed in principle to buy Tom's Foods, a regional US snack foods group, from General Mills for about £140m.

The news helped increase Rowntree's share price by 4p to 250p.

Mr Kenneth Dixon, chairman, said: "This acquisition is very attractive to the group. It will achieve our aim of both expanding into the United States and broadening our product range."

Sales of Tom's Foods in the year May 30 to last year were about £130m, and profits were about £16m. Rowntree is funding the acquisition with a seven-year loan.

Independent distributors sell Tom's products to retail outlets and vending machine operators. Distribution is mainly in the south east and south west of the country, and it has a staff of 2,400 in seven factories, with a head office in Georgia.

At present Rowntree has no manufacturing business in the US, although it does in Canada.

The List of Applications will open 10 a.m. on Thursday, 21st April, 1983, and will close at any time on the same day.
 This issue is made in accordance with a General Circular given by the Treasury under the Control of Borrowing Order, 1969.
 Application has been made to the Council of the City of Bristol for the Stock being issued to be admitted to the Official List.



CITY OF BRISTOL

ISSUE OF

£35,000,000 CITY OF BRISTOL

11 1/2 per cent. Redeemable Stock 2008

Authorised by the Council of the City of Bristol and issued in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1972, and the Local Authority (Stocks and Bonds) Regulations 1974

Arranged by Pember & Boyle and Butler, Laing & Crickshank Ltd.

Price of Issue £98 per cent

Payable as follows:-

On Application £20 per cent.

On 12th October, 1983, £78 per cent.

£98 per cent.

INTEREST (LESS INCOME TAX) WILL BE PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY ON 21st MAY AND 30th NOVEMBER, A FIRST PAYMENT OF INTEREST (LESS INCOME TAX) PER £100 STOCK WILL BE MADE ON 21st MAY, 1983.

The Stock is an investment falling within Part II of the First Schedule to the Trustee Investment Act, 1961.

In accordance with the Resolution passed by the Council of the City of Bristol on 14th December, 1982, NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC are authorised to receive applications for the above amount of Stock at the New Issues Department, P.O. Box 78, Drapers Gardens, 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2P 2SD.

1. SECURITY - The Stock and the interest thereon will be secured on all the revenues of the City of Bristol and will rank par with the revenues of the City.

2. PROVISION FOR REPAYMENT OF LOAN - The City of Bristol is required by Acts of Parliament to make annual provision towards redemption of loans raised for capital expenditure.

3. PRIORITY OF INTEREST - The interest on the present issue of Stock will be applied to replace money temporarily borrowed to meet authorised capital expenditure, to finance further authorised capital expenditure, and to replace maturing debt.

4. REDEMPTION OF STOCK - The Stock will be redeemed at par on 31st May, 2008 unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holders.

5. REGISTRATION - The Stock, when fully paid, will be registered and transferable free of charge, in multiples of one penny, by instrument in writing in accordance with the Stock Transfer Act 1982 at the City Treasury, The Council House, College Green, Bristol BS8 7TL.

By warrant, which will be sent by post at the risk of the stockholder(s). In the case of joint applications, the warrant will be forwarded to the person first named in the account unless instructions to the contrary are given in writing.

The first payment of £2,852 (less income tax) per £100 Stock will be made on 30th November, 1983, by warrant in the usual way.

7. APPLICATIONS AND GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS - Applications on the prescribed form, accompanied by a deposit of 10 per cent of the nominal amount applied for, will be received at National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department, P.O. Box 78, Drapers Gardens, 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2P 2SD, and must be for a minimum of £100 Stock or multiples thereof up to £1,000 Stock.

Larger applications must be made in accordance with the following scale:- Applications above £1,000 Stock and not exceeding £10,000 Stock in multiples of £1,000. Applications above £10,000 Stock and not exceeding £50,000 Stock in multiples of £5,000. Applications above £50,000 Stock in multiples of £25,000.

A separate cheque drawn on a Bank or branch thereof in England, Scotland or Wales must accompany each application form. Payments of £10,000 or more must be made by Bankers' draft or by cheque drawn on a Town clearing branch of a Bank in the City of London. No application will be considered unless these conditions are fulfilled.

In the event of partial allotment, the surplus from the amount paid as deposit will be refunded to the applicant by cheque. If no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned in full.

Payment in full may be made at any time after allotment, but no discount will be allowed on such payment.

Default in the payment of any instalment by its due date will render all previous payments liable to forfeiture, and the allotment to cancellation.

Each applicant to whom an allotment of Stock is made will be sent a non-transferable Letter of Allotment, which must be produced when the balance of the amount applied for is paid. Letters of Allotment will be sent by post up to 5 p.m. on 28th October, 1983. On payment of the instalment due on 12th October, 1983, the Letter will be appropriately marked and returned to the sender. When payment in full is made, the Letter of Allotment will be appropriately marked and returned to the sender, unless the registration application form (see back of this leaflet, in which case pages 1 and 2 only of the Letter will be returned to the sender).

Partly-paid Letters of Allotment may be split in multiples of £100 Stock but fully-paid Letters may not be split in multiples of 1p of Stock. No Letters of Allotment will be split unless the Issuer has been paid in full. There will be no charge for splitting Letters of Allotment.

Stock Certificates will be forwarded on 28th November, 1983 by ordinary post at the risk of the stockholder(s) to the first named registered holder at the address registered above, unless between 28th October, 1983 and 21st November, 1983 the Letter of Allotment has been lodged at the City Treasury for exchange for a Certificate. After 21st November, 1983 Letters of Allotment will cease to be valid.

A confirmation of the City of Bristol will be allowed to recognised bankers and stockbrokers on applications made in respect of applications bearing their stamp and V.A.T. registration number if applicable. This confirmation will not, however, be paid in respect of any allotment which arises out of an underwriting contract.

8. STATISTICS - Relating to the City of Bristol.

Population June, 1981 (Population-Growth estimates) 250,000-260,000
 Rate of increase 1971-81 (estimated) 2.2%
 Product of a rate of 10 in 1 - 1982/83 (estimated) 25,000-26,000
 Rate in 1982/83 (City and County purposes) 25,000-26,000
 Last date at 31st March, 1983 (estimated) 25,000-26,000
 Relating to the services of the City Council 25,000-26,000
 Relating to services transferred to other authorities 25,000-26,000

9. Prospectuses and application forms can be obtained from:-
 BUTLER, LAING & CRICKSHANK LTD
 Percy House, 7 Copthall Avenue,
 London EC2 7BE.
 PEMBER & BOYLE
 P.O. Box 93, 93 Finsbury Circus,
 London EC2P 2TG.

NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC
 New Issues Department P.O. Box 78,
 Drapers Gardens, 12 Throgmorton Avenue,
 London EC2P 2SD.
 THE CITY TREASURER
 The Council House, College Green,
 Bristol BS8 7TL.

By Order of the Council,
 JOHN A. BROWN,
 City Clerk,
 WALTER MILLER,
 City Treasurer.

The List of Applications will open at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 21st April, 1983, and will close at any time on the same day.

APPLICATION FORM

for

City of Bristol

11 1/2 per cent.

Redeemable Stock 2008

Issue of £35,000,000 Stock at £98 per cent.

To: NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC, NEW ISSUES DEPARTMENT, P.O. BOX 78, DRAPERS GARDENS, 12 THROGMORTON AVENUE, LONDON EC2P 2SD.

I/We hereby apply for

★ £ (say)

Bristol 11 1/2 per cent Redeemable Stock 2008 according to the conditions contained in the Prospectus dated 18th April, 1983, and undertake to accept the same or any less amount that may be allotted to me/and to pay for the same in conformity with the terms of the said Prospectus. I/We request that any Letter of Allotment in respect of Stock allotted to me/and be sent to me/and by post at my/our risk to the first under-mentioned address and that such Stock be registered in my/our name(s).

I/We enclose the required deposit of £ being 10 per cent, on the nominal amount applied for, and warrant that the cheque attached hereto will be honoured on first presentation and agree that any allotment of Stock is made strictly on the understanding.

19 SIGNATURE (1)

First Name(s) in full

Surname and Designation (Mr., Mrs., Miss or Title)

Address (in full including postal code)

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS (The spaces below are for use in the case of joint applications)

Signature (2)

First Name(s) in full

Surname and Designation (Mr., Mrs., Miss or Title)

Address in full

Signature (3)

First Name(s) in full

Surname and Designation (Mr., Mrs., Miss or Title)

Address in full

*Applications must be for a minimum of £100 Stock or in multiples thereof up to £1,000 Stock.

Larger applications must be made in accordance with the following scale:- Applications above £1,000 Stock and not exceeding £10,000 Stock in multiples of £1,000. Applications above £10,000 Stock and not exceeding £50,000 Stock in multiples of £5,000. Applications above £50,000 Stock in multiples of £25,000.

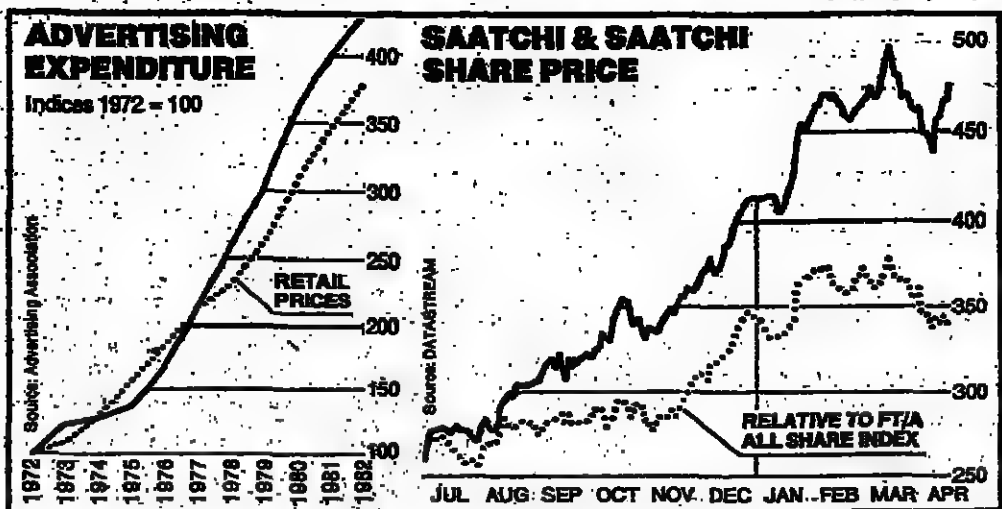
A separate cheque drawn on a bank or branch thereof in England, Scotland or Wales must accompany each application form. Payments of £10,000 or more must be made by Bankers' draft or by cheque drawn on a town clearing branch of a bank in the City of London.

No receipt will be issued for payment on the application but an acknowledgment will be forwarded by post in due course, either by Letter of Allotment, or by return of deposit.</

هكذا من الأصل

Marketing and advertising: Torin Douglas

High ratings reward as agencies' dynamism charms the City



Martin Boase: 'Top agencies are stable'

Saatchi & Saatchi, advertising agents to the Conservative Party, British Airways and many of Britain's largest consumer goods companies, has produced many successful campaigns. But perhaps its most difficult image-boosting job has been the one to persuade the City of the financial merits of the advertising business.

Before Saatchi and the other high-flying ad agency, Geers Gross, came along, the City's rating of the advertising business was about as low as it could be. Now ad agencies and other creative companies in the design and public relations fields have become fashionable stocks, with price/earnings ratios of 20 or more. Suddenly, the advertising world is looking to the City for finance and security, instead of selling out to American or European groups.

In January, the bright young agency Wight Collins Rutherford Scott entered the United Securities Market, in the process boosting the price of Saatchi and Geers Gross shares to their highest point of the year, as attention focused on the growth in the ad business. Now Boase Massimi Pollitt, one of the most highly regarded agencies with clients such as Courage, Cadbury Schweppes, Quaker Oats and Gillette, has announced plans to seek a full listing on the Stock Exchange.

Boase will be the first agency to go fully public since 1969, the year after it was set up as a breakaway from the American-owned Fritchard Wood agency. Since then it has built up an enviable reputation for its entertaining and effective television commercials, the Cadbury Smash Martians and the "Gercha" Courage campaigns were its work.

Its turnover has grown from £800,000 in its first year to £37m last year and its pretax profits last year were £290,000, suggesting that it could be valued at £12m or more. Seventy of its 155 staff own shares in the company.

Mr Martin Boase, the chairman, is in no doubt about the debt the advertising business owes Saatchi & Saatchi. "I think Maurice Saatchi has done a magnificent job in educating the City about advertising," he says. "He has managed to explode a number of myths that were prevalent - the belief that clients are constantly walking in and out of the door, that accounts are tied up individually, executives will follow them around from agency to agency, and so on."

He has underlined the fact that the top agencies are stable companies and that the agencies in the top 20 have not changed that much over the years. He has also demonstrated to the

City that advertising expenditure has held up remarkably well during the recession.

This last factor is as crucial as any in explaining the City's change of attitude to advertising, not least because it has helped to ensure that Saatchi's profits have grown regularly for the last 12 years, despite the recession. They reached £5.5m last year. Advertising expenditure grew in real terms last year

Before Saatchi, the City's rating of advertising was about as low as it could be

by 3 per cent and the latest Advertising Association economic forecast is for real growth of 5 per cent this year and 7 per cent next year.

Mr Bill Seward of Phillips and Drew stockbrokers says: "The businesses that the City thought were solid, with plenty of assets, such as engineering and manufacturing firms, have been seen to have lost of clay during the last recession, whereas advertising, which was regarded as not entirely serious, volatile and and the first thing to be cut in hard times, has been

seen to prosper." It's all been turned on its head.

"Agencies used to have a price/earnings ratio of around three-quarters of the average. Now they are seen as premium shares."

Mr Michael Waterson, the director of research at the Advertising Association, says the change in attitude towards advertising is not confined to the City. "Marketing is now recognised as being far more important, which is why advertising survived the recession so well. Many companies really learned a lesson from the 1974 slump when they cut their advertising budgets and found that their competitors, who maintained their spending, gained market share at their expense."

"However, the fundamental reason why the recession has had little impact on display advertising is that consumer expenditure has remained virtually stable throughout. It is sometimes difficult to believe that the worst recession that most people under pension age can remember has actually had an almost negligible effect on consumer spending, but this is nevertheless so."

Mr Seward and Mr Waterson agree that Saatchi & Saatchi is largely responsible for getting this message across to the City, mainly through its annual

report, which each year reviews the marketing and advertising business and puts it into its economic context, with great flair and thoroughness, explaining the importance of creating long-term brands and examining the implications for world-wide marketing of technological developments such as satellite and cable television.

Nevertheless, as with most marketing successes, it is not merely the presentation of the advertising business that has changed, but the product itself. Advertising agencies, by and large, are far better managed now than they were at the start of the 1970s. The problems that some of the larger, publicly-quoted agencies met then served as an object lesson for the rest of the business. It was little wonder in those days that the City had a sceptical view of advertising.

Long-established public companies such as Bensons and Dorlands found themselves the targets of bids from companies anxious not for their advertising interests but their property. In a hectic few months in 1971, Dorlands was bought by John Bentley's Barclay Securities and sold again, minus the property, to Garroff Advertising, while Bensons ended up in the arms of the American agency Ogilvy & Mather, with its property in

the hands of the Rothschild Investment Trust.

The shock waves reverberated throughout the advertising business for a long time and led directly to a tightening up of all financial aspects of the biggest agencies. Meanwhile, however, another ill-fated public company was confirming the City's doubts about advertising. This time it was a bright new agency, Kingsley Manton & Palmer,

Once regarded as not entirely serious, agencies are now seen as premium shares

which had set the ad business alight in the 1960s and went public in 1969, at around the same time as Geers Gross.

Kimpher, as it became known, bought a number of advertising agencies and grew to a peak turnover of £26m in 1974, but from there it slipped. After a number of attempts to revitalize the company it was sold in 1977 to the Morrison and Jones International the Guinness banking subsidiary. The individual agencies in the group have since been sold off. It was little wonder then that

it has taken until now for agencies to brave the City path again - Saatchi became a public company almost by accident as a result of its takeover of the already quoted Garland-Compton agency in 1975 - and it is a measure of the work that Saatchi and Geers Gross have done in recent years that those traumatic experiences are now largely forgotten. Pension funds now own a third of Saatchi shares.

Nevertheless, there are those who believe that the advertising boom cannot go on for ever and that it will only take one setback for the City to look anew at these glittering stocks.

Mr Keith Shepherd of Hoare Govett says: "They have got pretty fancy ratings which they've justified to date, but I wouldn't pin high hopes on an inevitable growth. There is a limited amount of resource that manufacturers can put into advertising."

It is no coincidence that both Saatchi and Geers Gross are looking overseas for growth. Geers Gross was the first into the United States in 1978 and has since grown further by acquisition. Last year Saatchi bought the Compton International network (which had links with Garland Compton) and catapulted itself into the list of the world's top 10 agencies, with offices in 37 countries and a worldwide turnover of approximately \$1,300m (£849m).

Whether Boase Massimi Pollitt and Wight Collins Rutherford Scott can match the performance of Saatchi and Geers Gross remains to be seen, but their decision to go public has inspired a number of other agencies to consider the idea.

Mr Boase hopes others will follow - "It would be wonderful if we could develop an advertising sector, it would improve the City's knowledge of our business even further" - but he is under no illusions about the pressures that going public imposes.

"Public scrutiny is not something we're afraid of," he says. "With agencies of our maturity of management - our top six directors have been here for 10 years - and the spread and balance of our business it can do nothing but good. That's why we've gone for a full listing and not for the USM."

Other agencies may feel nevertheless that the need for inconvertible profits growth is a distracting influence on the business of running the company, making financial requirements of overriding importance. What is certain is that a great many more agency managements are considering the idea.

Financial notebook

Money services without tiers

A great deal has been written about the impact of technology on the future of the market for financial services. It is widely agreed that the dividing lines between the different types of financial institutions will increasingly be blurred, but there is less agreement on the form that will emerge.

In my view, developments over the next decade are likely to be somewhat different for each of three layers of the market, but one common theme is of general application. People are not interested in technology as such; they are interested in something that will make life simpler for them. A person needs a wide range of financial services - short-term and long-term savings, life insurance, protection, money transmission, short-term loans, and a mortgage.

While people may enjoy shopping for food and clothing, they do not enjoy shopping around for financial services; they are confused about where to go for what, and how to decide which product is best. The key to attracting customer loyalty for financial services is, therefore, to package them in a way which will make life simpler for the customer.

The first layer of the market consists of those adults who do not yet have a bank account. These people have traditionally been paid in cash and they are in no hurry to change over to the cashless society.

The phenomenal growth of the building societies over the past 20 years has been built up largely upon the increasing affluence of this group and I would expect the building societies to hold on to their dominant position as they start to extend a wider range of services - such as the Abbey National Chequesave - to their customers. For this important sector of the market, the building society branch may well grow into a financial supermarket.

The second layer consists of the customers of the clearing banks. Most of the banking groups already offer a complete range of financial services, ranging from insurance broking to estate agency, yet few people think of buying all the financial services from the

group with which they bank, for the simple reason that these various services are not brought together in a way which makes life simpler and more convenient for their customers; why buy unit trusts from your bank's group if they do not make it easier for you to buy and hold their unit trusts than someone else's?

The challenge for the banks is to make their customers feel that the whole range of services in the group is conveniently available to them, preferably through people who understand their particular problems and needs.

The third layer (to whom the Hambro Life Group is directing its main attention in seeking to develop an integrated financial service) is known in the trade as the gold card market, in recognition of American Express's success in this field.

These people are interested in a particularly wide range of services, often including a share portfolio, but tend to be no better at organizing their financial affairs - indeed, the complexity of their finances often leads to paralysis in decision making and relative chaos in record-keeping. Once again the key to building up customer loyalty lies in making life simpler for them.

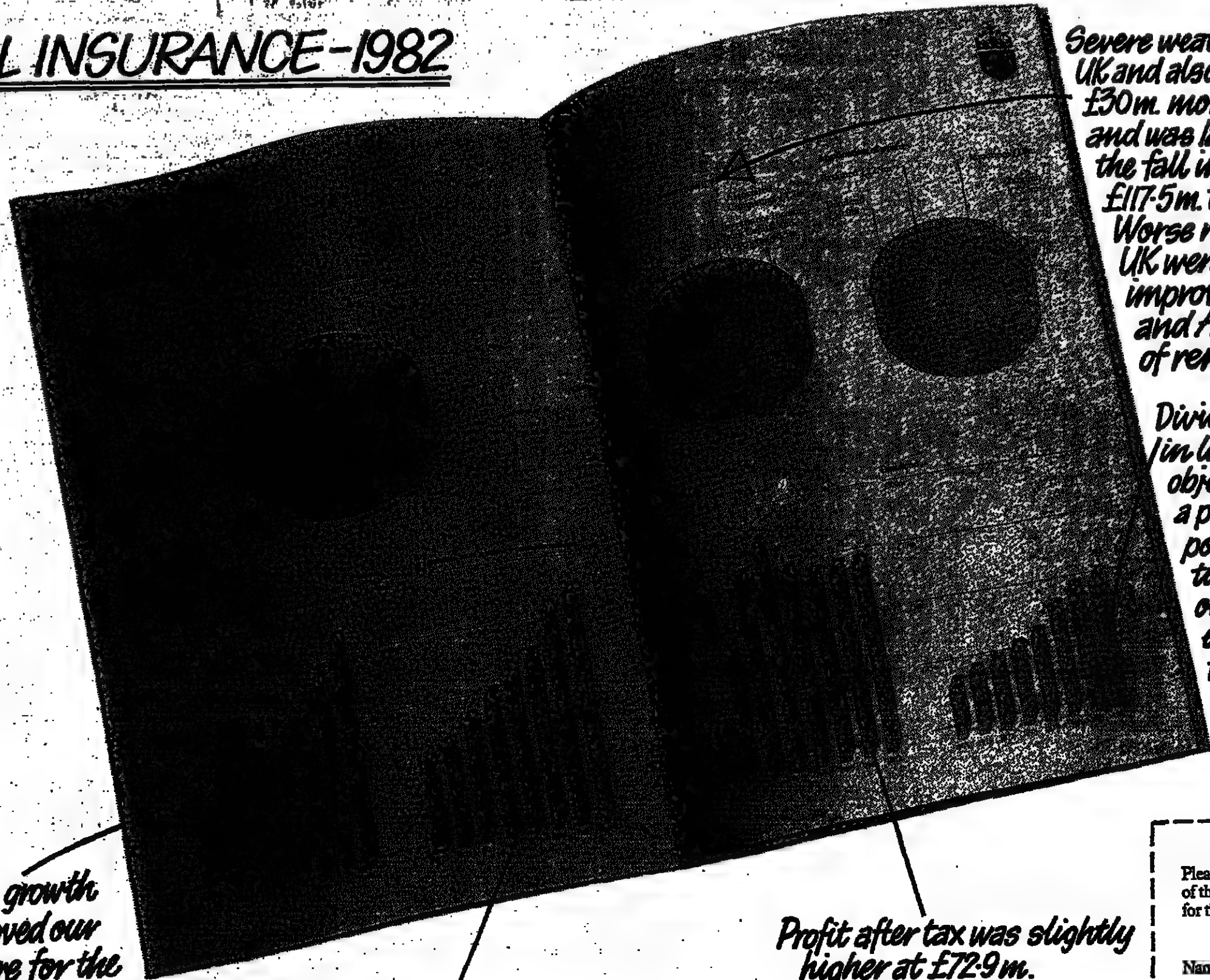
In my view, there are two elements in the solution. The first is the existence of a single person who can either offer advice to the customer on any of his needs or shepherd him to someone else in the group who has the expertise relating to the particular need. The second is an integrated computer system that will pull together the various threads of the customer's financial life, organizing his cash resources in the most efficient way and preparing a regular summary which gives him a clear picture of his affairs.

Providing this service will call for considerable resources of training, management and administration, but the benefit to the "gold card" customer and the group that provides the services should be substantial.

Mark Weinberg

The author is deputy chairman of Hambro Life Assurance.

ROYAL INSURANCE-1982



Severe weather, particularly in the UK and also in the US, cost some £30m more overall than in 1981 and was largely responsible for the fall in pre-tax profit from £117.5m to £96.5m. Worse results in the US and UK were partially offset by improvements in Canada and Australia as a result of remedial action.

Dividend increase of 5% is in line with our declared objective of maintaining a progressive dividend policy whilst at the same time ensuring that over a period sufficient earnings are retained to support the growth of business.

US premium growth of 12% improved our market share for the second successive year. In the UK, growth of 9% was satisfactory against the background of current economic conditions.

Important developments for Royal Life in the UK in 1982 - our entry into unit linked business and the establishment of a direct sales force - will serve us well in the years to come.

Profit after tax was slightly higher at £72.9m.



Royal Insurance

Please send me a copy of the Report & Accounts for the year ending December 31st, 1982.

Name _____

Address _____

To: The Secretary, Royal Insurance plc, Group Head Office, 1 Cornhill, London EC3V 3QR.

Banks in quandary over Saudi deficit

By Michael Prest

An admission by Mr Mohammad Abal-Khail, the Saudi Arabian finance minister, that the kingdom is likely to run a current account deficit this financial year as well as the announced budget deficit had prompted speculation about how the shortfalls will be funded.

Banks throughout the world are wondering whether they will compete for the mandate to raise a loan for Saudi Arabia, while the Saudis are withdrawing deposits.

However, Mr Abal-Khail, said at the weekend that the kingdom did not intend to borrow.

His statement apparently suggests that Saudi Arabia will have no choice but to seek external finance in the financial year which started last Thursday. Total revenue is projected to be Saudi Riyals 250,000m (£49,600m) whereas spending is put at SR295,000m.

Appearances, however, can be deceptive. It is true that Mr Abal-Khail has reiterated the commitment made by King Fahd to push ahead with the 1980-85 development plan. But it does not follow that all parts of the plan will be completed according to the original schedule or that payment will be made as previously envisaged.

The finance minister made the point himself. He was quoted by Reuters as saying: "All the projects committed by the government agencies are going on. With the huge sums we are dealing with you have a lot of flexibility."

The second doubt about the final size of the budget and current account deficits stems from the behaviour of the oil market. As orders of magnitude,

the kingdom needs to export about 6 million barrels of oil a day at the present price of \$29 a barrel to cover development and other costs.

Last year's average was 5.6m barrels a day and the March figure was a mere 3.5 million barrels a day.

But there is a reasonable chance that output and exports will rise later in the year. The Saudi Government hopes that a combination of world economic recovery, rebounding of stocks, and seasonal fluctuations will raise demand.

Mr Abal-Khail said that total Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries production could go up from about 16 million barrels a day now to 19 million barrels a day towards the end of the calendar year.

One factor clearly working in Saudi Arabia's favour is the low rate of inflation. The success of most of the kingdom's main industrial suppliers in reducing their domestic rate of prices increases, allied with cut-throat competition for Saudi contracts, could lead to import bills lower than expected.

But whatever the eventual combination of events, banks are sure that Saudi Arabia will not start withdrawing deposits until late in its financial year.

It makes sense to delay payments while earning interest and capital appreciation on the kingdom's external assets of \$160,000m for as long as possible.

Kuwait plans to raise spending by about 4 per cent in the financial year beginning on July 1 to about \$3,500m (£7,843m) Mr Abdel-Aziz Hussein, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs said yesterday.

Currys' earnings up with easier credit

Currys Year to 26.1.83
Pre-tax profit £15.08m (£11.27m)
Statutory earnings 20.8p (16.8p)
Turnover £238m (£228m)
Net final dividend 5.75p mkg 6.75p (4.95p)
Share price 334p up 34p. Yield 2.9%
Dividend payable 6.68p

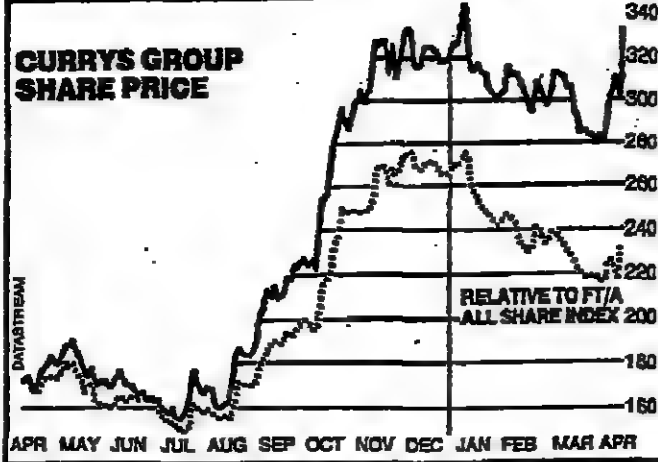
Currys' figures for 1982 show how much of a boost was given to the credit business by easier hire purchase terms and lower interest rates. Pretax profits were well above market forecasts at £15m against £11.2m last year. Credit business was 33 per cent of Currys sales in 1982, last year it jumped to 40 per cent, and the profits have not been dented by increases in bad debts.

At the same time the expansion in rentals, particularly of colour television and video recorders, also began to show through. The jump in assets in this division, from £17m to £29m, is a reflection of its growth.

Currys has been increasing its square footage, both through store openings - there were 20 new trading outlets last year - and re-locations into larger premises, of which there were 18.

These new developments in the rental and hire purchase sectors with investment in larger selling areas pushed up net borrowing to £9m.

The company says that margins were tight during the year, although the volume



increase was high, because of expansions of market shares.

Currys is not certain of the level of margins this year, although the company says that sales are usually higher. Japanese imports, at least, will be coming in at higher prices as a result of the accord between the EEC and the Japanese Ministry of International Trade, and the numbers will be down.

Profit forecasts for this year have been raised substantially now that there is a clearer picture of the impact of cheaper credit. There are hopes of £22m pretax, giving a price earnings ratio of only 14.5 times.

The dividend is likely to rise again, but perhaps by only 2p at the most because of the company's continued heavy expenditure on expansion.

C D Bramall

C. D. Bramall Year to 31.12.82
Pre-tax profit £1.55m (£2.11m)
Statutory earnings 21.5p (25.1p)
Turnover £23.0m (£23.8m)
Net final dividend 8.0p same
Share price 163p Yield 5.2%
Dividend payable 27.5.83.

With motor registrations moving from bad times to new peaks this year, shares in motor dealers could prove more interesting.

C D Bramall has a sound record compared with some, with profits rising without interruption from less than £1m in 1977 to more than £2m in the company's basis in 1981. That record was dented last year by an eight per cent fall

year fall, after profits had been marginally higher at the halfway stage. Mr D C A Bramall, the chairman, whose family interests own more than a quarter of the company, blames lower margins on new and used vehicle sales, and the start-up costs of opening a Vauxhall/Bedford dealership in Sheffield in the middle of the year.

Since the relaxation of hire purchase controls last autumn, the market has generally grown more buoyant and Bramall says this has improved profits on used vehicles in particular.

The mainstay of Bramall's business is its Ford dealerships which, Sierra permitting, should keep it well in the hunt as the vehicle trade moves ahead. Its main problem is being centred in the harder-hit North of England.

Profits should certainly rise again this year. The company has balance sheet assets worth as much as the share price and reports a £180,000 revaluation surplus which will not be incorporated. The high dividend cover does not help the shares in a sector where yield counts, but they look good value at less than eight times earnings.

Rowntree Mackintosh

Rowntree Mackintosh has embarked on an acquisition in the US, a move its shareholders have been awaiting since the 1981 rights issue. It is proposing

to buy Tom's Foods, a snack foods business, from General Mills for £140m. This, it says, fulfils two objectives - a product and geographical expansion.

The deal will initially be financed through a seven-year loan, which will be rolled over into longer term money if interest rates fall. Thus the gearing rises to about 50 per cent of equity, while last year Rowntree was generating cash.

There will be no dilution of earnings, and indeed, the view is that this will add about 1/2p to earnings per share this year.

The snack and confectionery market in the US is highly competitive and Rowntree believes that by buying a company that serves the independent and vending groups rather than supermarkets it will continue to be in a relatively high margin backwater.

To critics who query the company's ability to take on a subsidiary in the United States, where it has no management experience, Rowntree says that Tom's has had a lot of autonomy, even though it has been a subsidiary.

Rowntree maintains it is paying about 16 times earnings, which is fair for the course for US acquisitions in its sector, and that a Tom's will cover interest costs this year.

United States acquisitions are fashionable in the City, and the Rowntree share price, up 4p at 250p, is already benefiting.

Japanese put the accent on learning

Japanese businessmen living in Wales have been surprised to find their children are speaking with Welsh accents.

Others are even more alarmed that their youngsters are starting to speak Welsh, and now company executives are appealing for Japanese teachers for their children.

The problem is highlighted by the first survey of Japanese companies in Britain.

Another put-off for Japanese investment is the lack of Japanese food in Scotland, Wales and other development areas.

One Japanese restaurant outside London in Milton Keynes, was set up after the new town's development corporation appealed for help. But on the whole, says the survey by European Company Services, the Japanese are happy in Britain and with the British.

Production is higher than expected and labour relations are still going through a "honeymoon" atmosphere.

The survey was sponsored by the Department of Industry and the Japan External Trade Organisation.

Mr George Murray, ECS director, said yesterday: "The biggest concentration of Japanese companies is in the Cardiff area."

A Community atmosphere is beginning to form there and the Japanese seem to have an affinity with the Welsh.

COMMODITIES

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			COFFEE			SUGAR			COCOA		
Prices in pounds per metric ton			Oct/Dec 1977-80 877-880 900-880			Oct/Dec 1977-80 877-880 900-880			Oct/Dec 1977-80 877-880 900-880		
Silver in pound per tray ounce			Sales: 129 lots at 18 tonnes each, including 12 metric tons.			Sales: 129 lots at 18 tonnes each, including 12 metric tons.			Sales: 129 lots at 18 tonnes each, including 12 metric tons.		
Y'day's Close			Y'day's Close			Y'day's Close			Y'day's Close		
Premiums			Premiums			Premiums			Premiums		
High grade copper			High grade copper			High grade copper			High grade copper		
Cash 1070.50-71.50			Cash 1069.50-69.80			Cash 1069.50-69.80			Cash 1069.50-69.80		
Three months 1070.50-71.50			Three months 1069.50-70.50			Three months 1069.50-70.50			Three months 1069.50-70.50		
Standard cash (copper)			Standard cash (copper)			Standard cash (copper)			Standard cash (copper)		
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Three months 1071.00-72.00			Three months 1070-71.00			Three months 1070-71.00			Three months 1070-71.00		
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LME TURNOVER			LME TURNOVER			LME TURNOVER			LME TURNOVER		
Copper (higher grade) 1,200 tonnes			Copper (higher grade) 1,200 tonnes			Copper (higher grade) 1,200 tonnes			Copper (higher grade) 1,200 tonnes		
Standard cathodes 500 tonnes			Standard cathodes 500 tonnes			Standard cathodes 500 tonnes			Standard cathodes 500 tonnes		
Tin (standard) 1,700 tonnes			Tin (standard) 1,700 tonnes			Tin (standard) 1,700 tonnes			Tin (standard) 1,700 tonnes		
Zinc (standard) 1,500 tonnes			Zinc (standard) 1,500 tonnes			Zinc (standard) 1,500 tonnes			Zinc (standard) 1,500 tonnes		
Aluminum (standard) 1,000 tonnes			Aluminum (standard) 1,000 tonnes			Aluminum (standard) 1,000 tonnes			Aluminum (standard) 1,000 tonnes		
Nickel (standard) 1,000 tonnes			Nickel (standard) 1,000 tonnes			Nickel (standard) 1,000 tonnes			Nickel (standard) 1,000 tonnes		
LONDON COMMODITY PRICES			LONDON COMMODITY PRICES			LONDON COMMODITY PRICES			LONDON COMMODITY PRICES		
Coffee, cocoa, sugar and tin in pounds per metric ton			Coffee, cocoa, sugar and tin in pounds per metric ton			Coffee, cocoa, sugar and tin in pounds per metric ton			Coffee, cocoa, sugar and tin in pounds per metric ton		
Y'day's Close			Y'day's Close			Y'day's Close			Y'day's Close		
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Three months 1071-72.00			Three months 1070-71.00			Three months 1070-71.00			Three months 1070-71.00		
LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FUTURE			LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FUTURE			LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FUTURE			LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FUTURE		
Y'day's Close			Y'day's Close			Y'day's Close			Y'day's Close		
Premiums			Premiums			Premiums			Premiums		
High grade copper			High grade copper			High grade copper			High grade copper		
Cash 1070.50-71.50			Cash 1069.50-69.80			Cash 1069.50-69.80			Cash 1069.50-69.80		
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Three months 1071-72.00			Three months 1070-71.00			Three months 1070-71.00			Three months 1070-71.00		



Standard Chartered

BANK PLC



Comments by the Chairman, The Rt. Hon. Lord Barber

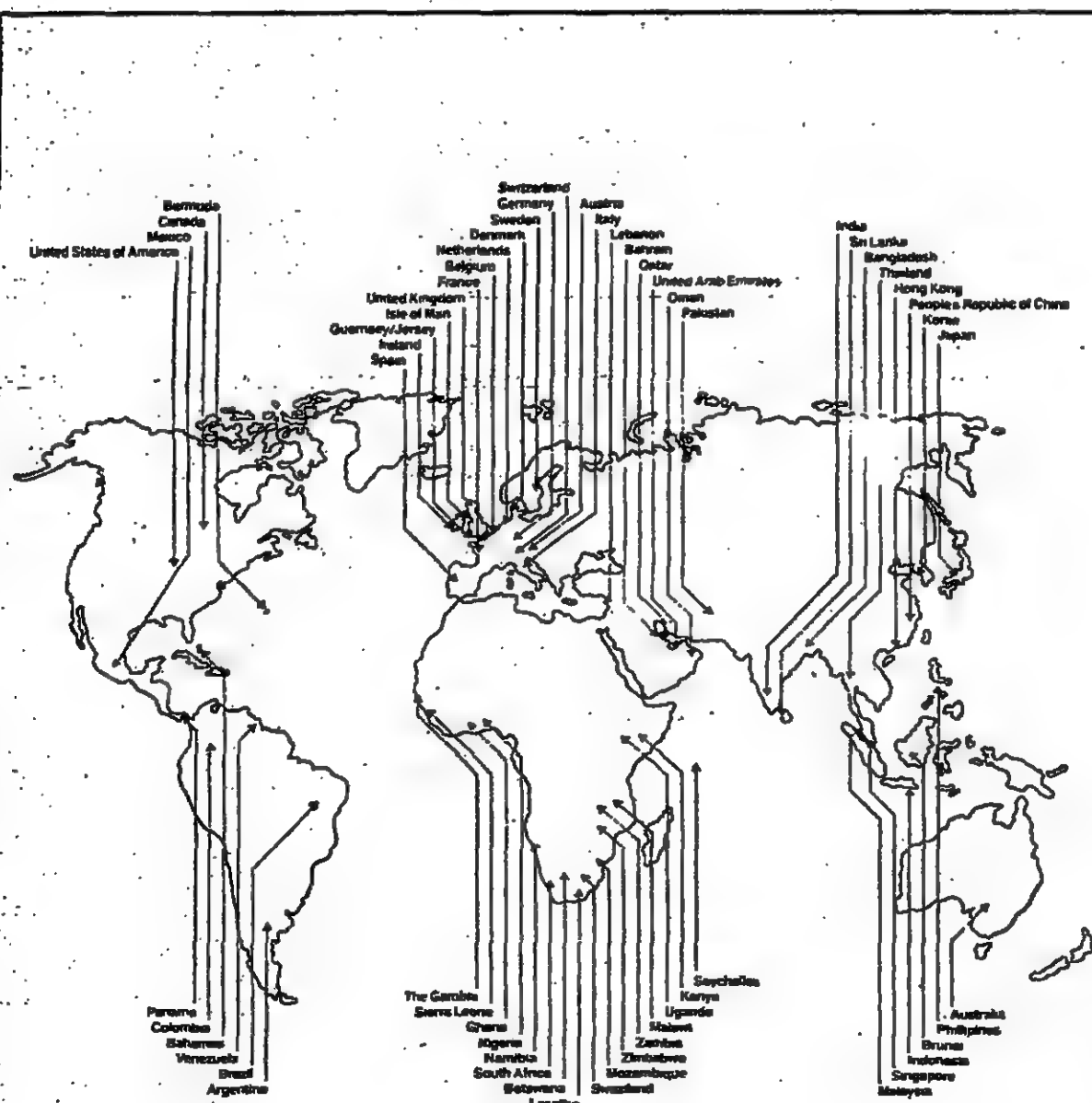
**Shareholders' Funds now
£1,141 million**
**Capital Resources now
£1,632 million**
**Total Assets now
£24,307 million**

Profits before taxation for the year ended 31st December, 1982, amounted to £242 million, compared with £260 million the year before. The net profit attributable to shareholders, after deducting taxation and minority interests, was £114 million or 88 pence per share. The total dividend proposed for the year is 27 pence per share.

A modest improvement was achieved in our operating performance around the world in spite of the recession but this was more than offset by the large increase in provisions against doubtful loans.

1982 was a year of difficult trading conditions for commercial banking and consumer finance in most of our principal markets. The worldwide network of foreign exchange and treasury centres achieved very satisfactory results. The slowdown in the South African economy affected our subsidiary there, but the improved prospects in the closing months led to a better outturn than had earlier been anticipated. Union Bank produced creditable results in the difficult Californian market. In the Far East, the tougher trading climate in Hong Kong was exacerbated by some concern about the future of the territory.

In the early part of the year a worldwide cost reduction programme was instituted, the benefits from which will be realised in the current year, as well as instilling a generally more alert attitude to cost factors. For a bank such as ours the importance of keeping



**1,900 offices in over 60 countries
around the world.**

abreast of the latest developments in information technology is obvious, and we are engaged in a major exercise to improve the Bank's systems.

With such wide geographical coverage there are inevitably

changes from year to year in our representational structure. In addition to an increased presence in China, there were other significant changes referred to in my fuller Statement with the Report and Accounts.

In particular, in the United States we have formed an integrated management group to make the most effective use of the presence which the Group already has in seven major States.

Our merchant banking interests now cover ten countries. Last year we took a significant further step by agreeing to acquire MAIBL, the first of the London consortium banks, which will merge with Standard Chartered Merchant Bank.

The problems of international debt servicing for the banking system have seldom been out of the headlines during the past year. It can readily be seen now that several countries had allowed too high a proportion of their public debt to be borrowed abroad and that the prolonged recession and continued high interest rates have created a difficult situation. It will take time for a better balance to evolve, and banks with a continuing interest in the long-term health of the countries experiencing difficulties must play a responsible and co-operating role in easing the adjustment.

For Standard Chartered our concern is both with the internal health of the countries in which we operate commercial banking businesses, and with the safety of our international lending. Other than trade finance, international lending has never been a dominant feature of our operations. We have, however, a well spread portfolio of sovereign type lending, the major part of which is to countries where we have an established banking presence.

Copies of the Report and Accounts and of the Chairman's Statement may be obtained from The Secretary 10 Clements Lane London EC4N 7AB

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COMPUTER HORIZONS

Architecture and design

Drawing to a deadline

When Hulme Chadwick & Partners won a contract from London Transport to refurbish Chancery Lane and St Paul's Underground stations, Andrew Chadwick decided a computer was essential to meet the tight deadline. But with £100,000 committed and the computer equipment on its way from the United States, the projects were cancelled.

Chadwick, far from losing heart, set up a computer drafting bureau for other architects and designers. Not only would this help to recoup the investment, but he would also be able to use the system in his own business.

Three years later, Chadwick is recognized as an expert on the application of computers in drafting and design, and actively promotes their cause. "I never want to draw on a drawing board again", he says.

The Hulme Chadwick practice, founded by Andrew Chadwick's father, seems to thrive on the unusual. Now specializing in refurbishing old buildings and interior design, it is housed in a former Bass Charringhouse pub in Cleveland Street, close to London's Middlesex Hospital. Much of the outside appearance has been preserved, but anyone dropping in for a pint would be disappointed, not to say surprised, for behind the Victorian engraved windows are work stations and VDUs.

In the beer cellar, barrels have given way to automatic drafting tables which sketch out an elevation or an architectural detail at the touch of a button. Chadwick soon dispenses of any suspicions that it may be too automated and lacking in creative content.

"It's a question of applying your knowledge and making computers do what you want," he says. "To me, the computer is a piano and we are the pianists. Some people think of them as pianolas, doing your job for you, but we haven't reached that stage yet. The skill of the individual in his own area of expertise is essential. If you put a man on the computer who can't draw, it doesn't mean anything."

Although the computer is only a tool, it is a very powerful one, and Chadwick has shown that its contribution to architecture and design can be invaluable. Drawing in the normal way is a kind of two-dimensional shorthand for a three-dimensional object. The computer translates that shorthand into patterns of zeros and ones, which represent coordinates much more accurate than anything a person can draw on paper.

"The information you produce can also be transmitted in a completely different way. You can carry it around in the form of magnetic tape, you can send it down a telephone line - a kind of drawing telex," Chadwick says.

Graphic and non-graphic data can be combined in the same process, surveys can provide information in the form



Andrew Chadwick (centre) with colleagues Mr E. Lowinger (left) and Mr R. Watkins outside the deceptive "pub"

of a tape instead of a drawing, and the same basic data can be used to draw to different scales. Costs can be controlled more closely, and time can be saved.

"You can do a fairly large drawing job in a quarter of the time and at half the cost, and you can use the time you've saved for better supervision of the work."

There are also large benefits if an architect or client has a change of heart. The ramifications of changing a specification are little understood outside the profession: making one alteration can generate all sorts of problems in other areas - something which a well-tempered computer can handle.

Admirers of Municipal Gothic and Bankers' Georgian may fear that the computer will condemn us to a future of

matchbox regularity. Not so, says Chadwick. "You work with shapes in relation to one another. Every building, even the most Gaudi-esque extravaganza, is a collection of components, and working with those components doesn't make for boredom. My computer can draw brickwork, and the fact that you can do that means that you use it."

The computer provides so much information that it places a burden on the designer to make choices. It leads away from conformity towards non-conformity.

Although Andrew Chadwick has been one of the pioneers in applying computers to architectural and interior design, the profession as a whole has not been indifferent. In Britain, interest is intense. Chadwick

who is chairman of the Computer Group of the Royal Institute of British Architects estimates that well over a third of firms have some sort of computer to do part of their work, although this may not be designing.

"I think that a higher proportion of architectural practices in this country have computer graphics than any other national profession in the world", Calcomp, the US company which supplied the equipment, has paid to send Chadwick around the world to lecture others on how to use it. "They flew me to Houston, Texas, to tell American architects how to use American equipment", says Chadwick.

Roger Woolnough

Teething troubles with the Drive

Customers of Clive Sinclair who bought his Spectrum machine when it was launched a year ago have been frustrated at the wait for his long-promised and revolutionary Micro Drive. Details were published to coincide with the launch of the computer, but a variety of teething troubles have continued to delay the launch.

Now, however, the company expects to start selling the Drive within the next few weeks. To keep faith with the original mail-order customers, it will be sold initially by mail, and only when it is rolling off the production line in sufficient numbers will it find its way into retail outlets.

When it does finally arrive, it will offer a storage capacity of more than 100K and sell at about £40, plus £30 for the computer interface.

Sharp, the Japanese electronics giant, is to launch a micro aimed at the home user, the MZ700, this summer. The machine will offer 64K ram, colour, sound, and graphics. It will be fully supported by software for the domestic user, and be compatible with software written for its big brother, the MZ80. It will slot into the highly competitive £200 to £300 range.

Computers, makers of the Lynx computer, have just concluded a financial deal which will inject more cash into the company. They are now taking on more design and development staff at their Cambridge factory and see the increased cash as a means of speeding support for their micro. Printer interfaces and a single disc drive should be available within the next two months. They have also set up their own software production company, Camsoft, and the first of their educational programs should be available about the same time as the disc drive.

If you are a happy family motorist, then I advise you not to buy one of the latest home application programs from the Reading-based software house Audiogic.

One of its six domestic programs for the VIC20 is called Car Costs, and after questioning the driver, it will analyse the expense of car ownership, displaying the costs diagrammatically. This program is bound to upset motorists who fondly imagine that the cost per mile can be calculated solely on petrol costs, and not, as is done here, on the hidden costs such as insurance, maintenance and repairs. If, on the other hand, you are a compulsive figure juggler, this could keep you happy for hours, even costing out hypothetical trips around the country.

Geoffrey Ellis

People/Philip Rule of Safe Computing



Philip Rule has been involved in computing for so long that he goes back to the days when programming was not a full-time job. He graduated as a mathematician, and English Electric took him on in 1957 because mathematicians were thought to be the only people capable of programming computers.

Things have changed a lot since then. One of the software packages sold by the company which Rule runs today, Safe Computing, is a production control system which runs on a microcomputer. The potential market is huge.

"There are 15,000 companies in the UK alone with 250 employees or less who could make profitable use of it," he says.

Philip Rule stayed with English Electric for about three years, then became involved with operational research in the electricity supply industry. Manufacturing attracted him next, and by the mid-sixties he was writing production control programs. This was to prove an enduring interest.

Safe Computing is based in the Midlands, where Rule has lived since 1968. He has grown deep roots there. His home is in Lichfield, and he was Liberal candidate for Lichfield and Tamworth in the 1974 and 1979 general elections.

He struck out on his own after a spell with Delta Metals. "I had a nice job there," he recalls. "I don't know why I ever left it."

His aim when he resigned in 1973 was to concentrate on consultancy, but he was immediately approached by Chubb & Son. The management felt that the company's computer was under-used. Would Rule take it on and operate a bureau, handling computer chores for outside companies?

Rather reluctantly Rule agreed, and a joint venture was formed. It was named Safe Computing after Chubb's best-known product.

Chubb owned 75 per cent, but Rule was in charge. Turnover was £140,000 in the first year, and he doubled it each year for five years. Now big changes have overtaken the

bureau business, and Safe has discontinued its interests in that area. Ownership of the company has also been restructured, and Chubb disposed of its shareholding last year.

Meanwhile, Rule has taken the company into new activities. His interest in manufacturing industry led to the acquisition of PERA, the Production Engineering Research Association, giving Safe Computing a flourishing business in production control work.

One result was a software package called SafeS, a production control system which runs on ICL machines. It will generate £1m of Safe Computing's income this year.

Next came MicroSafeS, a version which can run on a variety of microcomputers. It serves a very big, largely untapped market," Philip Rule says.

Response to MicroSafeS has been high, though sales have been slow so far. "We are at the exciting time when we will see whether it's really going to take off," Rule says.

He thinks that it could be generating as much revenue in a year or so as the larger SafeS package, adding £1m or more to each year's turnover. "But it could go astronomically beyond that," he adds. "We have literally hundreds and hundreds of prospects."

R.W.

Braille production

How the blind can keep informed

One of the social benefits of microchips and microcomputers is that they can greatly improve the lives of the blind and poor sighted. Voice synthesiser devices, for example, can enable a blind person to become a typist: linked to the keys of a keyboard, they can be arranged to generate the appropriate spoken sound for which-ever letter or character key is pressed. The sounds of words typed in can also be produced.

These and other technically feasible aids therefore make it possible for blind people to undertake clerical work and deal with correspondence as competently as sighted people. Hitherto, however, not much progress has been made to make this concept an economic practicality.

Now, thanks to teleprinter maintenance and the vision of a British data communications engineer, it is fast becoming a reality. The engineer, Reg White, runs a small but rapidly growing teleprinter maintenance company in the City called Eleybridge Communications.

Two years ago, he was asked to maintain a Braille embossing device made by the French company SAGEM. This started his interest in aids for the blind, and he took out a licence to market the French company's latest product at that time, a portable electronic Braille producing unit called the Digicassette, which enables a blind person to take notes, produce copy, and store it on a tape cassette.

White took the Digicassette to an exhibition at the Edinburgh Royal Blind Asylum and School where a dramatic incident brought home to him the need for an office system for the blind.

At the exhibition was a downcast girl who was leaving school and badly wanted to work in an office, but could not because of her handicap. When told about the Digicassette, her face lit up. She realised that it would help her achieve her ambition, and become employable on the same terms as a sighted person.

"This incident showed me the gap in the market that Eleybridge could fill," he recalls. "I could see that the progress of the electronic office could bring with it a danger to the visually-handicapped members of our society. Their

employment prospects depend, like everyone else's, on being able to compete successfully in the new high technology environment."

Since then, White has monitored developments in aids for the blind in Britain and abroad, and carried out development work himself. SAGEM subsequently assigned the patents, design and manufacturing rights of the Digicassette to an American company, Trimation Inc in Florida, with whom White has a close working relationship.

Trimation redesigned and enhanced the device mechanically and electronically, and recently relunched it as the MicroBraille. A compact desktop device weighing only 8lb, it provides a blind person with a high speed equivalent of a standard office word-processing machine.

The MicroBraille can function as an electronic typewriter, a portable computer terminal, an audio recorder, a data processor, or simply as a notebook. It enables text to be prepared in Braille and automatically converted into normal text. It also converts normal text into Braille without the operator needing to know Braille.

Text is stored on a built-in cassette, a standard C90 cassette being capable of storing 1,000 pages of Braille, and can be checked on a tactile readout comprising a line of 24 Braille characters each of six dots that protrude and retract. Other features include a micro-processor controlled system for editing, indexing and searching stored data.

White has enhanced the capability of the MicroBraille

by linking it to a microcomputer of his own design to give the versatile device the added dimension of communications: the Eleybridge computer allows it to be connected to VDUs, printers, and embossers, and to large computer networks.

White plans to produce a version fitted with an acoustic coupler to enable people who are both blind and deaf to communicate with one another by telephone. The handset will simply fit in the coupler, and the user will communicate via the keyboard and the tactile readout.

White has also provided a "talking" VDU, an embosser and a special Braille translation program.

Braille output is generated by a high speed embosser which produces a standard Braille page in 7 seconds, or a slower device that produces a page a minute. The system can produce output in five standard or contracted Braille languages: English, American, Hindi, Arabic and Spanish. French and German are being developed.

The new two systems, which cost around £5,500 each, have been tested and welcomed by the Royal National Institute for the Blind. "Any device which helps blind people to get jobs, or people who suddenly lose their sight to maintain their jobs, is welcome, and this equipment is particularly good," a spokesman said.

He plans to enhance the new systems further. Now under development are packages which will enable visually handicapped people to produce error-free letters and documents.

Frank Brown

Only man (or woman) can think

From P. T. Hobson, *The Pound, Clee, St Margaret, Craven Arms, Shropshire*. The illustration to Philip Marchese's article (Computer Horizons March 22) implies a question with which the article itself does not deal, but which is of fundamental importance to the future development of the human race. This question is by no means new, and was discussed in correspondence in *The Times* in 1949. This followed publication by you of

an interview with the late A. M. Turing, mathematician and computer scientist (June 11, 1949) in which he was asked for his views on the Lister Oration of that year given by G. Jefferson to the British Medical Association.

The "Electronic Digital Processing Computer" had recently become a matter of importance to commerce, and the Oration dealt with the question, "Can a Machine Think?" Though the brain/mind

dichotomy has been a subject of absorbing interest to philosophers from time immemorial, Descartes is generally regarded as being the father of modern development of the subject, and his famous dictum "I think, therefore I am", while denied by the determinists and reductionists and immortalized by Ryle as implying a "ghost in the machine", is not entirely rejected by many modern scientific thinkers. British academic philosophers, however, have been singularly quiet concerning the effect of modern technological developments on this important question.

Words which have been used for centuries both by ordinary people and philosophers to describe attributes of the human mind are used to describe the observed performance of computers and their associated programs without hesitation: memory, knowledge, belief, intelligence, thought and thinking, perception, cognition, are used without any attempt at a limiting definition.

This use of the adjective "limiting" is of crucial importance, because it has now been amply demonstrated that the purely logical part of these various mental capacities can be readily duplicated by machines, at speeds far in excess of human abilities.

But each of these attributes involves more than purely logical processes: all involve self-awareness in one form or another, and it is significant that words such as emotion, desire, volition and feeling are not included in the literature of artificial intelligence.

Psychologists now accept that much of this logical processing undoubtedly proceeds below the level of conscious awareness, but the human mind is capable of focusing attention at will on much of this activity, and "I know that I am 'thinking'". Does a computer, composed as it is of inanimate "chips", as distinct from the living tissue of the brain, know what it is doing?

Unfortunately, present and future generations will have been educated to believe that the answer to this fundamental question is "Yes". Already many decisions are being made on the basis of information ejected from a computing system, and one may ask, where

does the responsibility lie?

If a bridge is found to be of faulty design, can the computer be put in the witness box during the subsequent public inquiry? Thanks to the speed at which these systems operate, events now take place so rapidly that it is no longer fanciful to say that the decision to "press the button" will not be taken by the Reagans or Andropovs of the day, but by a machine.

Jefferson was right: "No, until a machine can write a sonnet or compose a concerto because of thoughts and emotions felt, and not by the chance fall of symbols, could we agree that machine equals brain - that is, not only write it, but know that it had done it. No mechanism could feel (and not merely artificially signal, an easy contrivance) pleasure at its success, grief when its valves fuse... be charmed by sex, be angry or depressed when it cannot get what it wants."

From Hilary Reed, *Reeds, The Silt Road, Farnham*. Looming large on your *Computer Horizons* (March 1) was an article which demonstrates that some experts in high tech - Mr Molyneux, "head of information technology unit of the Industrial Society" no less - have yet to emerge from the caves. The whole article, which "pinpoints the importance of the man at the sharp end", as well as its cartoon illustration, carefully avoids any reference to the contribution of many women who work at every level in information technology.

Yet again arrogant assumptions are to be read in your newspaper that important roles belong only to men. And this written by an "authority" whose title would be, accurately, "head of the hidden costs such as insurance, maintenance and repairs. If, on the other hand, you are a compulsive figure juggler, this could keep you happy for hours, even costing out hypothetical trips around the country."

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MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Index fails to pass 700

ACCOUNT DAY: Dealings began, April 11. Dealings end, April 22. Contingency Day, April 25. Settlement Day, May 3.

Just like the weather, the stock market was in a contrary mood yesterday and after coming within a whisker of 700, failed to end lower on the day.

The FT index, which has jumped more than 40 points since Easter, closed 0.5 down at 695.0, having been 2.9 up at 10 am.

However, the undertone remained strong supported by a late burst of buying support from New York where the Dow Jones Industrial average resumed its record run after the weekend break.

Blue chips were again in demand with BOC Group 2p up on the day at 216p along with Fisons 5p to 610p. ICI reduced an earlier fall to end only 2p down at 434p. Glaxo also retained a strong following ending 1/2p up at 297 1/2p. The strength of the market was reflected by brokers Rowe & Pitman's ability to place 9.1 million shares in Rio Tinto Zinc, the mining finance group, without too much trouble. The seller was Mr Harry Oppenheimer's Charter Consolidated, which sold more than 1 million shares this year for about £6m.

Yesterday's placing was executed at about 562p, valuing

Dealers are pinning their hopes on a late run - possibly to 90p - for shares of ICI, Britain's biggest manufacturer of computers, ahead of the figures. The market is looking for profits of £20m against a loss of £1m. The shares were 1p lighter at 750p yesterday, after 8 1/2p.

Gilts recovered from a nervous start to produce a gain of up to 1/2p, partly reflecting the pound's latest surge on the foreign exchange markets, where it ended 1.2 cents higher at \$1.5615. Dealers appear to have discounted the latest half-point cut in interest charges and feel that the next one may still be some way off.

Oil shares enjoyed another firm performance helped by Sheikh Yamani's latest optimistic comments on oil prices and consumption. The move certainly caught out the jobbers, who were already suffering from stock shortages. US support was noted in BP 16p higher at 388p while improvements were also seen in Shell, 4p up at 510p. British 6p to 210p, Ultramar 2p to 385p and Lasso 15p to 300p. Only Barmah resisted the trend, after last week's activity in the wake of its better-than-expected figures, closing unchanged at 178p.

Derek Bryant Group became the first Lloyd's broker to be quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, with the shares opening at 155p, compared with a placing price of 110p. Brokers Laing & Cruickshank placed 600,000 shares, or about 27 per cent of the equity. At last night's close, the company was valued at more than £3m.

Also making its debut on the

USM, were shares of L.D. & S. Rivin, the textiles group, whose full listing was suspended in 1978 when the receivers were called in. Yesterday the shares were requested in their new form at 35p compared with a suspension price of 18p and valuing the company at £1.4m.

Did speculation was again good for another 9p rise to 142p in shares of Minat Holdings, the Lloyd's insurance broker, where US interests account for 40 per cent of the equity. About 250,000 shares changed hands yesterday ahead of figures due soon. These are expected to show an increase in pre-tax profits from £1.7m to £1.8m.

Mr Michael Ashcroft's Electro-Products lost 1p to 246p after disappointing figures and reorganization news. Profits last year rose from \$3.4m to \$5.8m (£3.7m), but were below market expectations after exceptional items of \$1.2m.

One of the biggest moves on the day was Security Centres, which returned from a brief suspension 18p higher at 530p. The suspension came after details of the group's latest US security acquisition, Jewellers Protection, in January, the shares stood at 280p after news of a £2m rights issue and acquisition of National Guardsman security in New York.

The possibility of burnt fingers failed to deter investors in Bellair Cosmetics, which ended the day 9p higher at 65p, despite a circular from the company giving a warning that talks on a bid for the company were well below the current share price. The group's biggest shareholder, Fenelon Hill, is trying to sell its stake. Market followers believe that a reverse takeover is being planned.

After the recent rights issue at Guinness Peat the French group Compagnie de l'Occident pour la France et l'Industrie pour la France et l'Industrie has taken a stake of 10.5 million shares, or 7.85 per cent of the equity. Lord Kissen's stake accounts for 13.46 per cent of the shares.

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Non-stop rumours leave Guineas market in chaos

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

The 2,000 Guineas market was in turmoil yesterday after some of the leading bookmakers, notably Hills, Corrie and Davis, decided to suspend operations for the time being. Their reason was another spate of unsettling rumours about the well-being of both Danzeur and the ante-post favourite, Dicks. The winner of the Middle Park Stakes and Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket last autumn.

During the course of the day all rumours were repeated by their respective camps, but those details did not have a calming effect on a market which knows the meaning of the expression that there is never smoke without fire only too well. And, as we have come to know, the bookmakers' intelligence service is second to none.

Surprisingly, in view of all this, Ladbrooke are still betting on the race and they make Danzeur, Dicks and Gorynys 3-1 joint-favourites, with Wess at 6-1. The tote are also continuing to do business, although they have decided to take the precaution of offering Danzeur to their clients at 5-2 "with a run". They can also offer Gorynys, 3-1, Dicks and 11-2 Wess.

The latest word from Ireland, where Danzeur is trained by Vincent O'Brien, is that the colt is still on course for the Guineas, but that it is acknowledged there that he did work indifferently last week. It will be interesting to hear how he fares today when he is due to gallop at Leopardstown.

As far as Dicks is concerned the feeling is that professionals are now fielding against him in the belief that time is running out for Henry Cecil to get him to his liking after the colt pulled muscle and subsequent



Dick Hern: trainer of Tecoro (3.10 Epsom)

attack of stomach cramp. Classics and their like are seldom won by horses whose performance has been interrupted at a crucial stage.

Surprisingly for a horse who has been surrounded by controversy for the better part of six months, Gorynys now appears to be above suspicion. Indeed the only bit of talk that I heard about him is that he is currently so well that Dick Hern is even contemplating taking him from West Italy to Newmarket for a gallop there tomorrow, because after all the recent rain the ground at Newmarket is likely to be better than anywhere else. It would certainly be an interesting tactic after that debacle in the Dewhurst there last autumn.

Today's Epsom card hinges on the outcome of a stewards' inspection at 7.30 this morning. Chances of running are described as 50-50. If they give the go-ahead the Blue Riband Stakes will be the latest in a long line of annual classic trials to hog the limelight. This year it is being sponsored for the first time by Esal Bookmakers, who yesterday issued the following conditions: 2-1 Tecoro, 5-2 Gorynys, 100-30 Kuwaiti Tower, 11-2 Sharpey Dancer, 6-1 Society Boy.

This looks a race to watch rather than one to risk money on. Gorynys, Kuwaiti Tower and Tecoro, all did enough as two-year-olds to suggest that a prize like this could be theirs for the taking, unlike Sharpey Dancer, who yesterday issued the following conditions: 2-1 Tecoro, 5-2 Gorynys, 100-30 Kuwaiti Tower, 11-2 Sharpey Dancer, 6-1 Society Boy.

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A day that Piggott will want to forget

Lester Piggott, paying one of his rare visits to Wolverhampton yesterday, twice ended up before the stewards, and Pomade, his only winner from five mounts, was relegated to second place. Pomade, who did not race as a juvenile because of a pulled muscle, ran very green on her debut in the first division of the Bluebell Fillies Stakes.

She left Fluid Mechanics little room for manoeuvre as she raced to second place, Pomade, who did not race as a juvenile because of a pulled muscle, ran very green on her debut in the first division of the Bluebell Fillies Stakes.

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Making the fox a political animal

DAVID MILLER

When I drive through the Borough of Islington these days - less frequently for the purpose of visiting our most famous restaurant than one might wish - I keep a sharp eye open for foxes. If there are foxes in Islington, I calculate, then there are quite possibly monster eels, too.

The conger, as one learnt from that part of one's youth spent by the sea in Sussex - across the road from the tranquil Salmons where one could lie on the boundary watching Hassett and Lindwall - is found for pound probably the most powerful creature on earth and when hooked, more often than not inadvertently, can take up to 24 hours to die unless swiftly and occasionally dangerously knifed behind the head.

The Islington council, as you may know, has banned fox-hunting in the borough, and it stands to reason that as a matter of consistent moral principle they should also legislate against the catching of conger, not to mention the shooting of leopards, or even the pursuit of hares and pheasants - though I think Mr Carrier gets other people to catch those for him.

The point is that the selective nature of the anti-blood sports activists is strongly political, and one suspects that the inclusion of the abolition of fox-hunting in the Labour election manifesto is designed as a vote-catching move against the supposed party of the pursuers - the unrepentant in pursuit of the unrepentant, Wilde said - as much as any altruistic wish to protect Mr Ted. It would be politically dangerous were any political party to advocate - in an attempt to prevent freshwater anglers catching the same

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The threat to British equestrianism



The hunt: Breeding ground for top sportsmen

Passchendaele by her great uncle. Since the introduction of the Badminton trials in 1949, Britain has won two Olympic three-day events team gold medals, two world championships and nine European championships.

If the visible hero of Badminton was Lucinda Green, winning for the fifth time on her fifth different horse, the unseen master of the occasion was the 70-year old director, Frank Weldon, whose understanding of horsemanship following his exceptional equestrian career, had made Badminton famous for its kind in the world. Weldon was his first point to point in 1934, commanded the King's Troop of the Royal Horse Artillery, and only seriously took up eventing at 40, winning three team and one individual European gold medals and a team gold in the 1956 Olympics. Now as director of Badminton, he is to three-day eventing what Spassky is to chess.

He says: "I know it sounds wrong to enjoy killing any animal, and the very last thing I want to do in hunting is to kill a fox. But for 200 years we have been breeding great horses, using the staying power of the mares to combine with the racing speed of stallions, so that now it's almost impossible to buy a horse anywhere that hasn't got a fraction of thoroughbred blood in it. If fox-hunting were to stop, it would not immediately destroy eventing trials, but Britain's advantage would seriously deteriorate. When I was riding, it was possibly more dangerous, but simpler. My aim for 17 years has been to give experience to our riders so that when they go abroad they don't start with an inferiority complex."

Specialty built into Weldon's intricate cross-country course was a fence representing the Field Sports Society, where for the first time they were permitted to take collections for their fighting front out on the course. Over the three days they increased their membership by more than 500, or another £4,000 a year.

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The iniquitous that must be broken for

Epsom

Draw advantages: Low numbers best. Tote: Double 3.10, 4.10, Treble 2.35, 3.40, 4.45. [Television (ITV) 2.35, 3.10 and 2.40 races.]

2.00 CUMMINGTON AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O maidens: £1,648; 5f) (8 runners)

1. 00-30 ARTIMAR (M) Doughty D Thom 9-7
2. 00-30 ARTIMAR (M) Doughty D Thom 9-7
3. 00-30 ARTIMAR (M) Doughty D Thom 9-7
4. 00-30 ARTIMAR (M) Doughty D Thom 9-7
5. 00-30 ARTIMAR (M) Doughty D Thom 9-7
6. 00-30 ARTIMAR (M) Doughty D Thom 9-7
7. 00-30 ARTIMAR (M) Doughty D Thom 9-7
8. 00-30 ARTIMAR (M) Doughty D Thom 9-7

2.35 DEAN SWIFT HANDICAP (£2,820; 1m 4f) (6)
 201 302133-401 (M) J. de la Roche (M) Hobbs 4-10-4
 202 302133-401 (M) J. de la Roche (M) Hobbs 4-10-4
 203 302133-401 (M) J. de la Roche (M) Hobbs 4-10-4
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 208 302133-401 (M) J. de la Roche (M) Hobbs 4-10-4

3.10 ESAL BLUE RIBBON TRIAL STAKES (Group III: 3-Y-O: £15,164; 1m 110yds) (5)
 302 4122- GORDIAN (M) Nicheols G Harwood 8-9
 303 4122- GORDIAN (M) Nicheols G Harwood 8-9
 304 4122- GORDIAN (M) Nicheols G Harwood 8-9
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 309 4122- GORDIAN (M) Nicheols G Harwood 8-9

3.40 EVELYN HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,598; 7f 110yds) (8)
 401 422133-401 (M) J. de la Roche (M) Hobbs 4-10-4
 402 422133-401 (M) J. de la Roche (M) Hobbs 4-10-4
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 408 422133-401 (M) J. de la Roche (M) Hobbs 4-10-4

4.10 APRIL HANDICAP (3-Y-O Fillies: £3,106; 1m 110yds) (11)
 502 422133-401 (M) J. de la Roche (M) Hobbs 4-10-4
 503 422133-401 (M) J. de la Roche (M) Hobbs 4-10-4
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4.45 BUNBURY MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O maidens: 7f 110yds) (10)
 602 422133-401 (M) J. de la Roche (M) Hobbs 4-10-4
 603 422133-401 (M) J. de la Roche (M) Hobbs 4-10-4
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5.00 LUCK PENNY, 2.30 Blackpool Belle,

TENNIS: MUDDLED THINKING BY ATP

Two iniquitous payments that must not be mistaken for prize money

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

Remember the old British Hard Court Championships? Bournemouth is not like that any more. The State Express Classic which began today is for men only. The women, 64 of them, are competing for less than £1,700 in a separate tournament at West Worthing. By contrast, 16 men are competing for more than £48,000 in an over-35 side-show at Bournemouth.

Well, perhaps more than a side-show. What a joy it should be (to me) to have a little sadness at the toll the years have taken) to have another look at players who have given us so much pleasure. Among them, will be six men who won Wimbledon championships in singles or doubles: both Roy Emerson, Manuel Santana, Rod Laver, Fred Stolle, Bob Hewitt, and Owen Davidson. For some reason, they forgot to invite Fred McMillan.

The seedings say that in the main event, the grand prix tournament, the last eight will be: Jose Higueras v Jaime Filio, Manuel Orantes v Jaime Lujan, Victor Pecci v Shlomo Glickstein and Christopher Mottram v Tomas Smid. Interesting first round matches include Glickstein v Claudio Panatta, Mottram v Angel Gimenez (runner-up last year), Pat Cash v Thierry Tulasne (both teenagers) and Jim Brown, aged 17 v Filio, aged 36.

The prize money is £73,964. In addition the tournament must pay £10,417 into the grand prize pool and £4,734 to the Association of Tennis Professionals. It has become the practice to use official but misleading grand prize language in jumping the three sums together and calling the total "prize money". The ATP, in its weekly newspaper, went so far as to state that "men and women competing at Wimbledon will receive £978,211". That is not true. The only difference for such muddled thinking, is that it represents grand prize policy. The prize money at Wimbledon will be £904,246. The figure of £978,211 is made up by the addition of £59,172 paid to the bonus pool and £14,793 paid to the ATP.

All grand prize tournaments contribute to the bonus pool and also, this year, to the ATP. It is difficult to justify either payment and inaccurate to claim that they form part of a particular tournament's prize money. They would do so only if both sums were added to the money which tournaments pay directly to the players.

The year-end bonuses reward the more successful players for their commitment to the grand prize circuit. Thus the leading men paid twice for their success. Moreover, it is reasonable that, by contributing to the bonus pool, tournaments increase the earnings of players who may seldom, if ever, support their events. There are fast-court specialists, for example, who do not compete in the French championships, and clay-court specialists who do not compete at Wimbledon. Why should France and Wimbledon, to take only two examples, pay players who do not support their championships?

The payment to the ATP is new

and has unpleasant implications. Its purpose, similar to the bonus system, is to keep the players' "union" in harness with the grand prize. In January of last year the ATP announced that they were withdrawing their representatives from the governing council of the grand prize in order to assume an independent, neutral role between the grand prize circuit, the World Championship Tennis circuit, and a variety of one-off promotions. That decision made sense and it was what most ATP members wanted – and still want. But the bugle-call announcing the ATP's advance to a brave new world of impartial integrity was still hanging in the



Ivan Lendl, who on Sunday night beat Guillermo Vilas 6-2, 6-2, 6-0, to win the WCT spring finals at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Lendl, the top seed, collected \$125,000 (some \$75,000) for his easy victory over the second-seeded Argentine. Lendl, aged 23, never trailed in the match, building a 5-1 lead in the first and second sets, then coasting through the third in 23 minutes.

The Czechoslovak broke Vilas service nine times out of 11 and was forced to deuce only once during his own service in a game which Vilas, aged 39, eventually won.

Lendl said his win could give him a psychological advantage. "It means if we meet again in the French Open, I'll know what to expect and what to do," he said. "It's always nice to go into a match knowing you won the last one."

breze when they changed their minds. The rapidity with which they did so suggested that they were fickle or, to be less charitable, had merely been taking up a dispensable bargaining position.

It was no secret that the ATP could not afford to be independent unless they unimpaired their staff, their ambitions, and their ambitions. The rest of the grand prize council – representatives of the International Tennis Federation and tournament directors – were prepared to do a deal with them. WCT were not. So the ATP sold

their independence and remained on the grand prize council. The cost of this deal is being borne by grand prize tournaments, who are thus in the position of paying prize money to their labour force and making a separate payment to the union to which that labour force belongs.

In short, the bonus pool is a questionable expedient that is accused of injustice on two counts and the ATP fee cannot be justified on any count. If I may stress the point, neither payment should be confused with the prize money paid to players for their performances in particular tournaments.

There is so much fallacious reasoning in men's tennis that nonsense and injustice become familiar and almost tolerable. A prime example is the confusion caused by the fact that the men running the grand prize gave themselves a pretentious and tendentious title: the Men's International Professional Tennis Council. This implies that they are the governing body of men's professional tennis. That is not and never has been their function. They merely run one of the two men's circuits.

The other is run by WCT, who are currently using the MPTC, the ATP, and the ITF. Briefly, the complaint alleges that the defendants are conspiring to monopolise men's professional tennis and in doing so have violated United States anti-trust laws. Without going into the charges or the respective merits of the two circuits and their organizers, it is possible to sympathise with WCT in their frustration. They put men's professional tennis on its feet, made a tactical error by joining the ATP, and are now reassessing their independence discovered that the entrances to a supposedly free market were obstructed.

The acrimony between WCT and the Establishment has been going on for 15 years and there will be no end to it until the game has an independent governing body. Conceivably, this could consist of the ATP, representing the players, and the ITF (the national associations). But they would first have to decide that they want to govern men's professional tennis – rather than a single circuit of tournaments, which is what they do now.

The withdrawal from direct involvement in tournament promotion would present short-term problems but long-term benefits. A governing body running its own circuit could be neither trusted nor tolerated. Its neutrality would always be suspect. If independent, on the other hand, it could be universally respected and lay down basic rules and standards – much like those of the grand prize and WCT circuits, but more flexible than either – to be honoured by organizers and competitors at all events (including one-off promotions) seeking official status. Meantime, let us have a little more commonsense in discussing what is prize money and what is not.

Bournemouth qualifying results, page 23

Teenager gives Mrs Lloyd a scare

Amelia Island, Florida (Reuters) – Chris Lloyd, the No 1 seed, rallied from a 4-2 deficit in the third set to beat 15-year-old Carling Bassett, of Canada, 6-3, 2-6, 7-5, in the final of the \$250,000 Women's Association (WTA) Championship.

The 28-year-old American and

world No 2 appeared to have the match wrapped up when she won the opening set and jumped in to a 2-0 lead in the second. Then Miss Bassett, the youngest player on the women's tennis tour, stunned Mrs Lloyd by winning the next eight games.

Mrs Lloyd's perfect record on Florida clay was clearly in danger as Miss Bassett led 4-3 in the decisive set and was serving with a 30-0 lead, but the Canadian committed three unforced errors over the next four points to yield a critical service break.

GOLF: TWO BRANDS WITH AN EQUAL SHARE OF THE MARKET

X plus Y equals confusion

From John Hennessy
Golf Correspondent
Port of Kaitiaki

The battle of the Brands, which promised to be something of a sideshow during the Australian Open championship, the first event of the European professional season, developed into something significantly more important. Both Gordon Brands shared the second prize with Tom Sieckmann, of the United States.

It is cold, morning-after analysis, the elder Brand, the one from Yorkshire (and Brand X for brevity here), he did more than enough to banish the nightmare of 1982. He came again on Sunday with two telling birdies to claim a generous share of the booty, £4,473, when he seemed to have faded into the pack.

The confusion was caused by two players having the same name has already led to the publication of the wrong man's photograph, in *The Times* as elsewhere. Further, the youngest Brand, a Scot living in the West Country (Brand Y) removed his distinguishing moustache. But Brand X, mercifully, for picture editors everywhere, has taken to wearing spectacles.

The fascinating aspect of this comparison is that when Brand Y burst spectacularly on the scene last year with two tournament victories in his first season, Brand X suffered a catastrophic decline. He dropped to 61st position in the order of merit



The game of the name: old-style Brand Y (left) and new-look Brand X

and thus lost his automatic exemption in this year's event by one place (and £5,600).

The success of the younger man was widely believed to have had a psychological effect on his senior, but from the depths of despair, Brand X took himself off to Africa for rehabilitation and succeeded to such purpose that he returned to his wife and newly-born baby with £22,000 prize money and his exempt status restored.

How, now, would he stand up to the presence of Brand Y on the first occasion of their meeting? By a quirk of fate, helped along by Brand X's restorative 69 in the third round, the two played together on the last day. Honour was served by two rounds of 71. In one tournament Brand X has earned more than half the money he had acquired in 24 last year. The baby seems well provided for.

The tournament was otherwise notable for the recovery of Bernhard Langer, sixth in Europe last year and first in 1981. After a first round of 71, five over par, he just survived the humiliation (for him) of the 36-hole cut with a second round of 73. A 69 on the third day pointed to a solution of his putting problems, but deceptively. He cannyly escaped to chip in three times, as he did on Saturday.

In its way, a steady 73 in difficult conditions of severe wind on Sunday was more of a pointer to the way ahead. By then he had discarded the several cut-down putters he had brought with him and reverted to one of conventional shaft. Neither he nor anyone is likely to have been impressed by the newest gimmick employed by Sieckmann, the reverse – shafted putter with the de Gaulle profile.

Zoeller makes most of shortcoming

From John Ballantine, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

After winning his first title for two years, the Heritage Classic, Fuzzy Zoeller discussed the matter dearest to the heart of every golfer: how do you hit a longer ball from the tee?

"It's just a gift," Zoeller replied. He is not quite so phenomenally long as he was when he won the Masters in 1979 but who is still able to "let it out a long way", as Americans say, when he wants to.

"Strong legs and quick hands are important, comes to think of it," Zoeller added.

"My worsening back has taken 15 to 20 yards off my drive, but perhaps you are unable to notice it. I am a long-driver. I have ever seen."

Well I never saw legendary big hitters like George Bayer or Martin Roesink, but for my money, Dan Pohl is the longest today followed

by Fred Couples and John McComish. Pohl stands 5ft 11ins and weighs 124st. Couples is 5ft 11ins and 135st. McComish, of California, is 6ft 6in and 166st.

"I believe that having to cut down distance because of my back elped me here at Harbour Town where the emphasis has got to be on accuracy to the tight fairways and small greens," Zoeller went on. "I used a lot of two irons and three woods from the tee." The powerful 5ft 10in, 134st Indiana professional led by one from Bob Eastwood and by one from Jim Neiford of Canada, and Mac O'Grady, the former European tour player, at the start of the final round.

The reasons for his win included the parter he made the 332-yard ninth, followed by his birdie at the 10th. "At the ninth I took a two iron

but my drive hit a branch. I still had only 78 yards to the pin but I swung a sand wedge into a bunker. I got a funny looking shot from the sand out to 10 feet and holed for par. At the 10th I hit an eight iron to 12 feet and holed. But the first time I really felt I had won was when I hit my short 17th," he confessed.

Neiford held on to second place while O'Grady, who tied with Eastwood for third, won by far his biggest prize to date, \$20,300 (£13,037). By general vote he was the "new star" of the week.

LEADER FROM SECOND ROUND: 278: Zoeller, 67, 68, 71, 277: J. Neiford (Canada), 68, 69, 71, 278: M. O'Grady, 68, 69, 71, 279: B. Eastwood, 68, 70, 69, 278: J. McComish, 70, 69, 71, 279: C. Pohl, 72, 68, 70, 72: N. Trevino, 68, 72, 71: A. Bean, 69, 71, 72, 68: S. Crawford, 70, 69, 71, 68: F. Couples, 70, 68, 71, 69.

Legal Appointments

also on page 26

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Enterprises

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Please write or phone for an application form (to be returned by 30th April) to Mrs D. FANTHOM, PERSONNEL OFFICE, N.H.B.C., CHILTERN AVENUE, AMERSHAM, BUCKS HP6 5AP. Tel. Amersham 4477 ext 779.

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Refugee accused of seedy past

By George Clark

Prospects for Mr. Stancu Papasoiu, the deported Romanian, ever being allowed back into Britain now seem slim, although some MPs still think he should be granted asylum.

Mr. David Waddington, Minister of State, Home Office, said yesterday: "It now appears that he was convicted of rape when he was in Romania."

He said it was one thing to consider the admission of a refugee when there were compassionate circumstances, but it was an entirely different matter when the Home Office had to consider someone with "a seedy past".

Mr. Waddington said that when he was deported back to Romania, Mr. Papasoiu had claimed that he had been tortured and beaten by prison officers in England. But a report from the doctor who examined him after his release from the Ashford remand centre "negated entirely" those allegations.

According to a report published by the official Romanian news agency, Mr. Papasoiu, who is 29, was sentenced to three years and two months imprisonment for taking part in a gang rape in 1977; but he was released by presidential decree after serving only two months of the sentence.

Mr. Papasoiu has been expelled from Romania and is now in an Austrian refugee camp. In spite of his allegations of ill-treatment, it is possible that he will again seek asylum in Britain. The British Romanian Association and Amnesty International believe that he is a genuine refugee and should be allowed in.

Mr. Waddington seems to have relied on reports put out by the official Romanian press agency, which stated that Mr. Papasoiu had also been interned in Austria, Italy and West Germany, and that last year he spent six months in a French prison for theft.

Some MPs who criticized the Home Office decision last month say that the Romanian reports should not be accepted without thorough checking.

Manila fires

Manila (AFP) - About 1,500 people were left homeless after two separate fires in a Muslim neighbourhood in central Manila and a residential-commercial area in suburban Makati.



Princess gets nose-rub welcome from Maoris

The Princess of Wales received a nose-rubbing from Susan Piper, aged 16, at a walk about in an Auckland park yesterday. It is a traditional form of Maori welcome.

But a royal nose-rub by the Princess scored only five out of 10, according to another Maori girl, writes Granita Forbes of the Press Association.

The stench of protest hung over a gala ballet performance attended by the Princess and Princess at Auckland's St James Theatre. No amount of cleaning could hide the terrible smell of sulphur hydride left by a Maori protest group two days ago, but the royal couple did not seem to notice.

Demonstrations by the Maoris are expected during the two-week royal tour in New Zealand, and this was their first shot - dozens of stink bombs left in the theatre to seep into seats and carpets.

The protest group, who left the glass vials hidden in the stalls, also put quick-set concrete in lavatories and ripped up seats.

But if the Prince and Princess, who wore a blue

taffeta ball gown for the performance of *Coppelia*, got the odd whiff they certainly did not show it and appeared to thoroughly enjoy the production.

They are also unlikely to know that a former Minister of Maori Affairs boycotted the gala.

Police are on full alert for protests by the Maoris, who want compensation for land acquired during the reign of Queen Victoria.

Dawn Peley, aged 17, head girl of the Queen Victoria School, initiated the Princess into the traditional welcome when she and the Prince of Wales attended a display by 35,000 school children at Eden Park.

After giving the Princess the greeting which is known as *Hongi*, Dawn said: "She needs more practice."

Prince Charles, who was also slightly apprehensive about the nose-rubbing ceremony. He told Susan Piper: "Please don't rub my nose too hard." He had hurt his nose in a hunting accident before the tour.

Lead-free petrol by 1990

Continued from page 1

lowed from food or even the glazing on plates. Professor Southwood said that concerted EEC action was necessary otherwise Continental lead pollution might "wash across the Channel", for example, in vegetables.

The commission called for more research into lead in alcoholic drinks, but its main remaining concern was paint. Removal of paint containing lead by dry-sanding could be dangerous, the commission added. Contaminated dust could be inhaled or might settle in carpets. Although the yellow paint used to make road markings outside schools did not contain enough lead to be dangerous, local councils should be forced to use paint with the lowest possible lead content.

The introduction of unleaded petrol is likely to add one or two pence to the cost of a gallon of petrol.

Leading article, page 13

Channel 4 may face call for shutdown

Independent television companies may be asked to shut Channel 4 down until the dispute over payments for their advertising is settled, it was disclosed last night.

The companies which pay for Channel 4 by subscription are ready to ask the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) to close it because the dispute has so far cost the about £50m in lost advertising revenue. The companies have paid about £130m this year to finance Channel 4; in return they collect the advertising revenue.

However, present Channel 4 losses are such that many of the companies are making such small profits that they will be unable to plough sufficient money back into their own productions to maintain programme output.

Programme executives from the independent television companies had a secret meeting earlier this month with the IBA when they told the authority that the dispute was becoming financially disastrous. Now, with the dispute still deadlocked after nearly six months, the companies are considering going back to the IBA to ask it to close down Channel 4 until a settlement is reached.

Their concern is aggravated by the fact that the dispute, which has also hit TV-AM, is threatening the actors' union and the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising (IPA), responsible for commercials on independent television and as a result does not involve either ITV, Channel 4 or the breakfast company in any negotiations.

Neither side has made any moves aimed at ending the dispute since January, and therefore the ITV companies want Channel 4 to be closed until a settlement is found.

The dispute is over the IPA's refusal to pay actors appearing in commercials on Channel 4 the same rate as on ITV because of smaller audiences.

Equity have now said they would accept 50 per cent of ITV payments.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

Acts of an apostle for Third World

Yesterday the House debated the plight of the Third World. As always when that subject is under discussion in the Chamber, the speech which aroused the most interest among members was that of Mr. Edward Heath - or Major Refutation, to give him his military rank.

The house was ill-attended until he rose to contribute. Those members who were present from the start seemed to be agreed that the subject was exceptionally serious and important. That could explain the low attendance. But Mr. Heath always draws a small crowd because members are interested to see how rude he is going to be about the Government.

A combination of the subject, the fact that it was a Monday, and the absence of any division votes requiring MPs to be present, meant that the crowd was smaller than usual.

Very soon it became smaller still, for Mr. Heath decided to be relatively restrained on the subject of the Government. But he was slightly rude at the start of his speech. He said that Mr. Denis Healey, the chief Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, had been "unfair" to Mr. Pym, the Foreign Secretary, by saying that Mr. Pym had not put forward any definite proposals for fear of being sent to the House of Lords.

"If he were to put forward a definite proposal, then the danger of going to the House of Lords will be infinitely greater," Mr. Heath said. Everybody laughed. Mr. Heath looked around, rather pleased with the jest, for it was indeed a good one.

He bared his teeth and heaved his shoulders; the pose that first got him into the cartoons and into Mr. Yarrowood's act all those years ago, and thus established his fame. Then he subsided, and started to talk seriously about places called Chad and Mali - places which, to the average MP, sound like the side dishes you order to go with main courses in Indian restaurants.

Mr. Heath remained being rude about the Government, but only in the context of being rude about all the Western Governments for not doing enough to help the Third World. This rather spoils the fun, from the point of view of casual passers by among MPs, so it was no wonder they fled the Chamber once he started discoursing with slightly dubious authority on the internal politics of Popadum or wherever.

Moreover, there are highly welcome signs of growing irreverence among MPs towards the whole subject of "the Third World".

So a feature of the debates is much exchanging of compliments. Thus Mr. Russell Johnston, for the Liberals, thought Mr. Rhodes James's speech was "sane, humane and sensitive". Mr. Rhodes James undoubtedly thought the same of Mr. Johnston's.

To all of which the sceptical onlooker must reflect: surely there is something not quite right here. Seldom yesterday did anyone suggest that the poverty of the Third World, assuming so implausible a place to exist, had any kind of local origin, for example, in one part of the "Third World" there is a ban on the slaughter of cows. In lots of parts there is not enough of a ban on the slaughter of people. Neither practice can be good for prosperity.

But the Foreign Secretary, who opened the debate, was not yet prepared to join the sceptics. Mr. Pym peered down into what sounded the standard Foreign Office brief for debates on the Third World. He found himself saying things such as that he accepted that we lived in an interdependent world.

Mr. Healey delivered the speech which he delivers in Opposition on such issues, which is a little to the left of the one he delivers in Government which is the same as the one delivered by Mr. Pym.

That left Major Refutation as the source of interest. Like most military types, Mr. Heath favours the brisk statement of the objective to be seized. "A solution to these problems will never be found until there is an expanding world economy," he said.

Objective then: expand world economy. Mr. Heath was convincing about how to do that, or at least about how to do it without also expanding world inflation.

A combination of those familiar crooked tones of Mr. Heath's, and his Churchillian way with Romance languages, made him difficult to follow at one stage. Thus he deplored the riots in Sao Paulo, and it was some time before one realized that this was his way with Sao Paulo. No harm was done.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

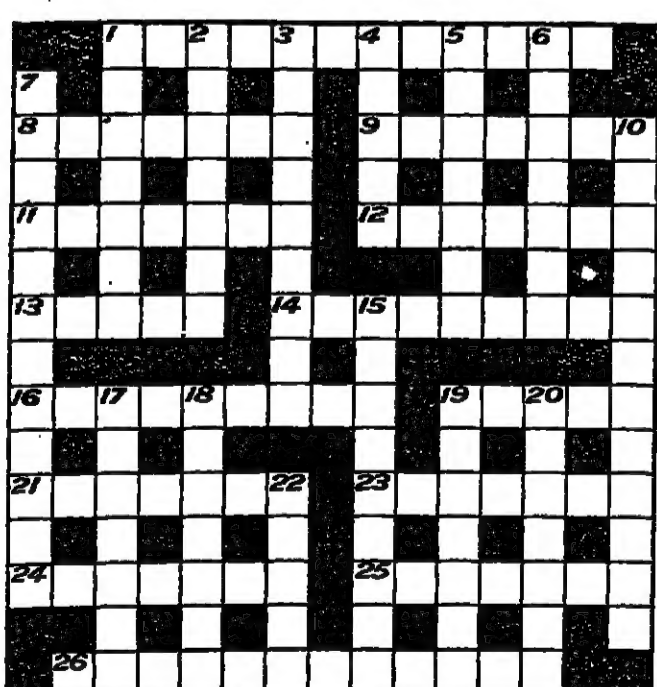
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh inspect the Queen's Company of the First Battalion Grenadier Guards, Windsor Castle, 12.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother lays the foundation stone of the Turner Museum, Tate Gallery, London, 3.30.

Princess Anne, Patron of the Riding for the Disabled Association, opens the Elizabeth Curtis Centre for Disabled Riders, Bromham Hospital, Bromham, Bedfordshire, 10.45; as Chancellor of London University, opens new galleries of the Percival David Foundation, School of Oriental and African Studies, Malet Street, London, 2.30; attends a charity evening of greyhound racing in aid of the Leukaemia Research Fund, White City, London, 7.15.

Princess Margaret visits Gostins

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,107



ACROSS

- Jack's obstacle race? (12).
- Barmen taking caps off? (7).
- Noisy bunch in a quagmire (7).
- A target destroyed at Henley? (7).
- It gave Tom his field of vision (3-4).
- Corsets used to be put on in bed (5).
- You may burn your fingers with this tricky business (3,6).
- Unusually grim, a part of this rambling recital (9).
- Middle American hasn't a cent to get in (5).
- Marine-built sort of revolutionary conveyance for the well-born (7).
- Remove corruption but make a bomb (5,2).
- One who leaves a course unfinished (4-3).
- Inquire into what used to be a pit (7).
- Perhaps a privilege to support the standing order? (6,6).

DOWN

- Poor Nugent's made to take a magazine (4,3).
- Pressed the button and became an outcast? (7).
- A nut gives his optic a squint (9).

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 11

Workshops. Halewood, 2.10; as President of the NSPC, attends centenary annual general meeting of the Liverpool Branch, Liverpool Town Hall, 3.30; attends reception at Liverpool Town Hall given by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, 6.15.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Army Educational Corps, visits units in Aldershot, Hants, 10.30.

The Duke of Kent, as Chairman of the National Electronics Council, visits the All-Electronics Show at the Barbican Centre, London, 11.30, and lunches with the Council of the Electronics Components Industry Federation, Barbican City Hotel.

New exhibition

Paper as Image, Bangor Art Gallery, Flord Gwynedd, Bangor, Wales, to Sat 12 to 5, closed Sun & Mon; (from today until May 21).

Exhibitions in progress

The Story of the Artists International Association: Photomontage by Peter Karam, from an Unofficial War Artists' Museum of Modern Art, 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford; Tues to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Mon; (both until May 22).

Works from the Cooper Trustees Art Collection, Cooper Gallery, Church Street, Barassey, Tues 1 to 5.30, Wed to Sun 10 to 5.30, closed Mon; (until May 11).

Steam Power: Drawings and paintings by Josephine Gussone Whitehead, City Museum, Market Street, Lancaster; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 3 (until April 30).

Music

Concert by Modern Jazz Quartet, Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham, 7.30.

Concert by Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Cheltenham Town Hall, 7.30.

Recital by Koenig Ensemble, Leicestershire School of Music, The Rowans, College Street, Leicester, 7.30.

Concert by Allegri String Quartet, The Hexagon, Queens Walk, Reading, 7.30.

Concert by Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra, MacRobert Arts Centre, Stirling, 8.

General

A new permanent exhibition of coins collected by William Hunter is on display at the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow University, from today.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debates on Opposition motions on East Anglia and on shipbuilding and ship repairing industries.

Lords (2.30): Energy Bill, committee. Water Bill, report. Debate on building societies.

Anniversaries

Christian Ehrenberg, biologist, was born at Delitzsch, Germany, 1795. Deaths: Paolo Veronese (Cagliari), Venice, 1588; Byron, Missolonghi, Greece, 1824; Benjamin Disraeli, First Earl of Beaconsfield, Prime Minister, 1868, 1874-80, London, 1881; Charles Darwin, Downe, Kent, 1882; Pierre Curie, Paris, 1906. The War of American Independence began with the Battle of Lexington, 1775.

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending April 10:

- 1 Coronation Street (Wed) Granada, 10.00m.
- 2 This is Your Life, Thames, 14.00m.
- 3 3-2-1, Yorkshire, 14.30m.
- 4 Coronation Street (Mon) Granada, 10.00m.
- 5 Family Fortunes, Central, 13.30m.
- 6 Crossroads (Wed) Central, 13.25m.
- 7 The Dick Cavett Show, Central, 13.25m.
- 8 T.J. Hooker, ITV, 13.00m.
- 9 Only When I Laugh, Yorkshire, 12.55m.
- 10 Carry On Laughing, Thames, 12.55m.

BBC 1

- 1 The Grand National, 12.55m.
- 2 The Grand National, 12.55m.
- 3 The Grand National, 12.55m.
- 4 The Grand National, 12.55m.
- 5 The Grand National, 12.55m.
- 6 The Grand National, 12.55m.
- 7 The Grand National, 12.55m.
- 8 The Grand National, 12.55m.
- 9 The Grand National, 12.55m.
- 10 The Grand National, 12.55m.

BBC 2

- 1 Just Another Day, 7.50m.
- 2 Discovering Birds, 5.25m.
- 3 Dear Ladies, 5.10m.
- 4 Daisies - Invention Earth AD 2160, 4.40m.
- 5 The World About Us, 4.30m.
- 6 To Serve Them All My Days, 3.55m.
- 7 How The West Was Won, 3.40m.
- 8 Pot Black '83, 3.30m.
- 9 Top Gear, 3.30m.
- 10 Whiskey Gallop, 3.30m.

Channel 4

- 1 M*A*S*H, 3.50m.
- 2 Get Knighted, 2.55m.
- 3 The Uninvited, 2.55m.
- 4 On the Riviera, 2.55m.
- 5 Summer Madness, 2.10m.
- 6 Cheers, 2.05m.
- 7 American Bandstand's 30th Anniversary Special, 1.55m.
- 8 Summer Show, 1.55m.

In Wales:

- 1 M*A*S*H, 3.50m.
- 2 M*A*S*H, 3.50m.
- 3 M*A*S*H, 3.50m.
- 4 M*A*S*H, 3.50m.
- 5 M*A*S*H, 3.50m.
- 6 M*A*S*H, 3.50m.
- 7 M*A*S*H, 3.50m.
- 8 M*A*S*H, 3.50m.
- 9 M*A*S*H, 3.50m.
- 10 M*A*S*H, 3.50m.

In England:

- 1 The Grand National, 12.55m.
- 2 The Grand National, 12.55m.
- 3 The Grand National, 12.55m.
- 4 The Grand National, 12.55m.
- 5 The Grand National, 12.55m.
- 6 The Grand National, 12.55m.
- 7 The Grand National, 12.55m.
- 8 The Grand National, 12.55m.
- 9 The Grand National, 12.55m.
- 10 The Grand National, 12.55m.

Breakfast Television: The Average weekly figures for audience peak times (with previous week's figures in parentheses) are:

BBC 1, Breakfast Times, Mon to Fri 1.30m.

ITV-am, Good Morning Britain, Mon to Fri 0.4m (0.4m), Sat 1.2m (1.1m), Sun 0.7m (0.6m).

Swedish Audience Research Board.

National Day

The west African state of Sierra Leone celebrates its National Day today. The day marks the anniversary of the adoption of a republican constitution in 1971. A former British colony which became independent in 1961, Sierra Leone has traditionally relied on the export of minerals, particularly diamonds, for its wealth. In recent years, a series of austerity measures have failed to overcome worsening economic conditions.

Roads

London and South-east: Scrubs Lane, N Kensington: Roadworks. Kingston town centre: Width restriction at Wood Street, A501: City Road, Islington: Water main repairs, northbound traffic diverted. M25: Lane closures between junctions 3 and 4 (Bagshot to Frimley, Surrey).

Midlands and East Angles: M1: All traffic sharing southbound exit at junction 16 (Rotherthorpe service area, Northants). A1: Lane closures near Alconbury, Cambridgeshire.

North: M62: Lane closures between junctions 22 (Bradford) and 26 (Ripponden), W Yorks. A1: Roadworks near Boroughbridge, N Yorks. M6: Lane closures between junctions 41 (N of Fenwick) and 42 (S of Carlisle), Cumbria.

Wales and West: M5: Width restrictions between junctions 26 (Taunton) and 27 (Tiverton). M4: Closed road bridge, A32 Kinkaidy, Explanade, Fife, closed until midnight for annual links market; local diversion. A739: Clyde Tunnel expressway closed northbound; diversion.

Information supplied by the AA.

The papers

Commenting on Mrs Thatcher's Foreign Policy, the Daily Mirror says: "With the bloodshed fresh and with an election in mind, she won't look beyond the present... It may be too early to start talking about Argentina now, but it is not too early to admit they must take place."

Lead-free petrol should be introduced to Britain as soon as possible, says the Daily Express. "The danger has been established; the remedy must not be delayed."

The pound

Bank Bank Bank

Australia \$ 1.85 1.77

Austria Sch 27.95 26.15

Belgium Fr 48.50 44.50

Canada \$ 1.95 1.90

Denmark Kr 13.95 13.28

Finland Mk 8.90 8.30

France Fr 11.73 11.18

Germany DM 3.53 3.73

Greece Dr 130.00 126.00

Hong Kong \$ 1.24 1.18

Italy Lira 2395.00 2295.00

Japan Yen 388.00 368.00

Netherlands Gld 4.41 4.20

Norway Kr 11.56 10.96

Portugal Esc 160.00 146.00

Spain Ptas 166.00 150.00

Sweden Kr 12.02 11.48

Switzerland Fr 3.30 3.12

Yugoslavia Dnr 130.00 119.00

Notes for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclay Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Bank of England: London, 11.70.

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Weather

A depression in the North Sea will move slowly N, and a cold N airstream covers the British Isles.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, central S England, Midlands: Fog patches dispersing, sunny intervals, scattered wintry showers developing; wind NW, light; max temp 6C (45F).

East Angles, E central N England: Cloudy outbreaks of rain or sleet, snow on hills, becoming brighter, perhaps wintry showers; wind NW, fresh, becoming moderate; max temp 7C (45F).

Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales: Fog patches at first, sunny intervals, wintry showers; wind N, light; max temp 8C (46F).

N Wales, NW England, Isle of Man, SW, NW Scotland, Argy, Northern Ireland: Sunny intervals, wintry showers, snow on hills; wind N, moderate or fresh; max temp 7C (45F).

Lake District, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain, snow on hills; becoming brighter showers later; wind N, strong, perhaps gale in places, backing NW, fresh later; max temp 6C (43F).

Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain, snow in places, spreading from SE; wind NE, fresh or strong, gale in places, backing N; max temp 6C (43F).

Continuing unsettled and rather cold.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel: Wind variable, light or moderate; sea slight. St George's Channel: Wind N light or moderate; sea slight. Irish Sea: Wind moderate or fresh; sea slight or moderate.

Sun rises: 5.58 am Sun sets: 8.03 pm Moon sets: 2.50 am Moon rises: 10.06 am

First quarter: tomorrow.

Lighting-up time

London 8.35 pm to 5.26 am

Edinburgh 8.55 pm to 5.25 am

Manchester 8.45 pm to 5.25 am

Pennance 8.52 pm to 5.25 am

Temperature at midday yesterday: a, cloud; b, rain; c, rain & sleet.

Belmont 1.94 a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z.

Birmingham 1.94 a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z.

Bristol 1.94 a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z.

Cardiff 1.94 a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z.

Cardiff 1.94 a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z.

Cardiff 1.94 a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z.

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts shown in solid lines. High and low pressure centres shown in dashed lines. Arrows show wind direction, wind speed (kts) circled, temperature (°C) in square.

NOON TODAY

High tides